**Template for Families to Use in Letter to Probation Requesting COVID-19 Release**

Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Chief Probation Officer (or other title)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Probation Department

Street address

**Re: Request for COVID-19 Related Release of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (your son or daughter’s name), case no. \_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Chief Probation Officer (or other title) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

My/our son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, case no \_\_\_\_\_\_ is currently being held in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of Juvenile Hall or Camp). I/we are writing because we are concerned for his/her safety in custody during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are able to safely care for him/her in our home. We ask you to exercise your power under the California Department of Justice *COVID-19 and Statutory Authority Under Government Code Section 8658* (2020-DLE-05) issued April15, 2020, to release my/our child.

[Give the reasons your child should be released. It may include any of the following or a combination:]

**Health reasons** – for example, My/our child suffers from asthma, respiratory disease, pregnancy or other conditions that make him/her vulnerable to COVID-19 complications. You could also talk about the emotional impact of being in the facility – the fact that when you have spoken to your child, they have been afraid, anxious, or depressed. Give examples of what they have said to you.

**Failure of the juvenile hall or camp to provide proper COVID-19 mitigation** **measures** - such as hand washing supplies, sanitation, social distancing, information about how to prevent the spread of the virus. You could also talk about the impact on daily life – for example, if your child reports spending all day in their room without education or programs, difficulties in getting phone calls to you or attorneys, not being able to go outside, not having alternative activities. You can describe the things you child has told you are problems.

**Facts about the case or your child showing that they can safely be released** – for example, if they are in custody for a low- level violation or whether it is almost time for them to come home. Also, if they are in a commitment program or camp, you could say that they are being held to receive education and services, but those services are not being provided.

**Other facts** such as that when we read and hear about illness and deaths from COVID-19 in juvenile detention centers and jails around the county, we are frightened for the health and well-being of our child.

We know that you have a difficult job in this pandemic, and that it will become even more difficult if youth or staff become ill. I/ we can safely care for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at home, and make sure that he/she practices COVID-19 precautions. Please release him/her to our custody. Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if we can provide further information to assist you in your decision.

Sincerely,

Your name(s)

Address

Email

Telephone

Encls. (include the BSCC Guidance and the Dept. of Justice Bulletin)