

GENETIC DISORDERS RESEARCH LETTER

HEADING:

You will include the sender's complete address and the full date. The heading should be at the left-hand margin. When the letter is done you may add space to center the letter on the page.

INSIDE ADDRESS:

The inside address is placed at the left-hand margin 4 to 7 spaces below the heading. List the name and complete address of the person you are writing.

SALUTATION:

The salutation is placed two spaces below the inside address. For this letter we will use *Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson:*

BODY:

The body of the letter is placed two lines below the salutation. The information in the body should be clearly and briefly written.

The first paragraph should briefly explain the genetic disorder and the genetic cause (chromosomal, recessive, dominant, gene number, etc) for this disorder.

The next paragraph should have a clear topic sentence with at least 3 details to explain the symptoms. Double space between each paragraph.

The next paragraph should list a clear topic sentence with at least 3 details for treatments and explain the life expectancy for their child.

The final paragraph should state what parents may expect for the quality of life or challenges in raising this child. Inform them of your informational website and the support group(s) you have found for them. Include words of sympathy or understanding and a GENTLE BEDSIDE MANNER!

CLOSING:

The closing is placed two spaces below the body. Use *Very truly, Yours truly,* or *Sincerely.*

SIGNATURE:

End your letter by signing your name beneath the closing. You will need to add a comma and MD for your official doctor's signature. If you are typing the letter, skip four lines and type your full name. Then, write your signature between the closing and your typed name.

Dr. Debra Hunt
334 12th Street West
Kalispell, MT 59901
January 5, 2010

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson
1422 Edington Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson:

I am sorry to inform you that your child has tested for the disorder of Seventh Graderitis. This disorder is caused by a mutation on the AHAH1 gene on the 8th chromosomal pair. This is a dominant trait.

Fortunately symptoms of Seventh Graderitis are severe only for a short period of time. Once your child reaches the age of 12 or 13 (usually after their 6th grade year) they will develop severe eye rolling, selective hearing, body odor, and a lack of motivation to help you in any way around the house. These symptoms may continue for a year or possibly two if severe enough to impair learning in school.

Treatments for Seventh Graderitis include taking cell phones and video games away from your child, restrictions on social activities (also known as grounding), and forcing them to eat dinner with you regularly as a family. In extreme cases you may need to involve their teachers who may assign ridiculous amounts of schoolwork to keep them busy. Because the symptoms of Seventh Graderitis are short-lived there is good prognosis for survival into adulthood.

There is more information about Seventh Graderitis available at www.nothisisnotarealdisease.org. There are no support groups at this time, however most parents of high school students can be very understanding to talk to. Good luck.

Sincerely,

Debra Hunt, MD