

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 170

Short Title: Foster Parents Rights/Notice.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Burgin (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 26, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO ENSURE FOSTER PARENTS RECEIVE NOTICE PRIOR TO A JUVENILE
3 BEING PLACED WITH A PARENT.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 7B-906.1(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) The director of social services shall make a timely request to the clerk to calendar
7 each hearing at a session of court scheduled for the hearing of juvenile matters. The clerk shall
8 give 15 days' notice of the hearing and its purpose to (i) the parents, (ii) the juvenile if 12 years
9 of age or more, (iii) the guardian, (iv) the person providing care for the juvenile, (v) the custodian
10 or agency with custody, (vi) the guardian ad litem, and (vii) any other person or agency the court
11 may specify. The department of social services shall either provide to the clerk the name and
12 address of the person providing care for the juvenile for notice under this subsection or file
13 written documentation with the clerk that the juvenile's current care provider was sent notice of
14 hearing. Consistent with this subsection, the department of social services shall provide verbal
15 notice of upcoming hearings to the person providing care for the juvenile if that person did not
16 receive notice from the clerk. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to make the person
17 providing care for the juvenile a party to the proceeding solely based on receiving notice and the
18 right to be heard."

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 7B-906.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 "(d3) At any permanency planning hearing where the court makes a finding under
21 subdivision (e)(1) of this section that a juvenile be placed with a parent from a family foster care
22 home, the person providing care for the juvenile shall be, at a minimum, verbally notified at least
23 48 hours prior to the juvenile returning to the parent and included in the transition planning when
24 it is determined to be in the best interest of the child."

25 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.

