

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 570*

Short Title: Changes to the Juvenile Code.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Daniel and Barringer (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 3, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE JUVENILE LAWS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. G.S. 7B-200(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

5 "(a) The court has exclusive, original jurisdiction over any case involving a juvenile who
6 is alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent. This jurisdiction does not extend to cases
7 involving adult defendants alleged to be guilty of abuse or neglect.

8 The court also has exclusive original jurisdiction of the following proceedings:

9 ...

10 (5a) Proceedings to review the placement of a young adult in foster care pursuant
11 to G.S. 108A-48 and G.S. 7B-910.1.

12"

13 SECTION 2. G.S. 7B-404 reads as rewritten:

14 "§ 7B-404. **Immediate need for petition when clerk's office is closed.**

15 (a) When the office of the clerk is closed, a magistrate ~~may be authorized by the chief~~
16 ~~district court judge to draw, verify, and issue petitions as follows:~~shall accept for filing the
17 following:

- 18 (1) ~~When the director of the department of social services requests a~~A petition
19 alleging a juvenile to be abused, neglected, or ~~dependent, or dependent.~~
20 (2) ~~When the director of the department of social services requests a~~A petition
21 alleging the obstruction of or interference with an assessment required by
22 G.S. 7B-302.

23 (b) The authority of the magistrate under this section is limited to emergency situations
24 when a petition ~~is required in order~~must be filed to obtain a nonsecure custody order or an
25 order under G.S. 7B-303. Any petition ~~issued~~accepted for filing under this section shall be
26 delivered to the clerk's office for processing as soon as that office is open for business."

27 SECTION 3. G.S. 7B-405 reads as rewritten:

28 "§ 7B-405. **Commencement of action.**

29 An action is commenced by the filing of a petition in the clerk's office when that office is
30 open or by the ~~issuance~~acceptance of a juvenile petition by a magistrate when the clerk's office
31 is closed, which ~~issuance~~ shall constitute filing."

32 SECTION 4. G.S. 7B-407 reads as rewritten:

33 "§ 7B-407. **Service of summons.**

34 The summons shall be served under G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j)~~4~~ upon the parent, guardian,
35 custodian, or caretaker, not less than five days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing. The
36 time for service may be waived in the discretion of the court.



1 If service by publication under G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j1) is required, the cost of the service by
 2 publication shall be advanced by the petitioner and may be charged as court costs as the court
 3 may direct."

4 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 7B-505(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "(a) A juvenile meeting the criteria set out in G.S. 7B-503 may be placed in nonsecure
 6 custody with the department of social services or a person designated in the order for temporary
 7 residential placement ~~in~~in any of the following:

- 8 (1) A licensed foster home or a home otherwise authorized by law to provide
 9 such ~~care; or~~care.
 10 (2) A facility operated by the department of social ~~services; or~~services.
 11 (3) Any other home or facility, including ~~a relative's home~~the home of a parent,
 12 relative, nonrelative kin, or other person with legal custody of a sibling of
 13 the juvenile, approved by the court and designated in the order."

14 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 7B-505.1 reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 7B-505.1. Juvenile Consent for medical care for a juvenile placed in nonsecure custody**
 16 **of a department of social services.**

17 (a) Unless the court orders otherwise, when a juvenile is placed in the nonsecure
 18 custody of a county department of social services, the director may arrange for, provide, or
 19 consent to any of the following:

- 20 (1) Routine medical and dental care or ~~treatment~~treatment, including, but not
 21 limited to, treatment for common pediatric illnesses and injuries that require
 22 prompt intervention.

23"

24 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 7B-506 reads as rewritten:

25 "**§ 7B-506. Hearing to determine need for continued nonsecure custody.**

26 ...
 27 (b) At a hearing to determine the need for continued custody, the court shall receive
 28 testimony and shall allow the ~~guardian ad litem, or juvenile, and the juvenile's parent, guardian,~~
 29 ~~eustodian, or caretaker~~parties the right to introduce evidence, to be heard in the person's own
 30 behalf, and to examine witnesses. The petitioner shall bear the burden at every stage of the
 31 proceedings to provide clear and convincing evidence that the juvenile's placement in custody
 32 is necessary. The court shall not be bound by the usual rules of evidence at such hearings.

33 ...
 34 (g1) The provisions of G.S. 7B-905.1 shall apply to determine visitation.

35"

36 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 7B-906.1 reads as rewritten:

37 "**§ 7B-906.1. Review and permanency planning hearings.**

38 (a) ~~In any case where custody is removed from a parent, guardian, or custodian, the~~The
 39 court shall conduct a review hearing within 90 days from the date of the initial dispositional
 40 hearing held pursuant to G.S. 7B-901 and shall conduct a review hearing within six months
 41 thereafter. Within 12 months of the date of the initial order removing custody, there shall be a
 42 review hearing designated as a permanency planning hearing. Review hearings after the initial
 43 permanency planning hearing shall be designated as subsequent permanency planning hearings.
 44 ~~The subsequent~~Subsequent permanency planning hearings shall be held at least every six
 45 months thereafter or earlier as set by the court to review the progress made in finalizing the
 46 permanent plan for the juvenile, or if necessary, to make a new permanent plan for the juvenile.

47 ...

48 (d) At each hearing, the court shall consider the following criteria and make written
 49 findings regarding those that are relevant:

50 ...

- 1 (3) Whether efforts to reunite the juvenile with either parent clearly would be
 2 unsuccessful or inconsistent with the juvenile's health or safety and need for
 3 a safe, permanent home within a reasonable period of time. The court shall
 4 consider efforts to reunite regardless of whether the juvenile resided with the
 5 parent, guardian, or custodian at the time of removal. If the court determines
 6 efforts would be unsuccessful or inconsistent, the court shall ~~consider other~~
 7 ~~permanent plans of care for the juvenile pursuant to G.S. 7B-906.2, schedule~~
 8 a permanency planning hearing within 30 days to address the permanent
 9 plans in accordance with this section and G.S. 7B-906.2, unless the
 10 determination is made at a permanency planning hearing.

11 ...

12 (o) This section does not apply to post termination of parental rights' placement
 13 reviews."

14 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 7B-908 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 7B-908. Post termination of parental rights' placement court review.**

16 (a) The purpose of each placement review is to ensure that every reasonable effort is
 17 being made to provide for a permanent placement ~~plan~~ plans for the juvenile who has been
 18 placed in the custody of a county director or licensed child-placing agency, which ~~is~~ are
 19 consistent with the juvenile's best interests. At each review hearing the court may consider
 20 information from the department of social services, the licensed child-placing agency, the
 21 guardian ad litem, the child, the person providing care for the child, and any other person or
 22 agency the court determines is likely to aid in the review. The court may consider any evidence,
 23 including hearsay evidence as defined in G.S. 8C-1, Rule 801, that the court finds to be
 24 relevant, reliable, and necessary to determine the needs of the juvenile and the most appropriate
 25 disposition.

26 (b) The court shall conduct a placement review not later than six months from the date
 27 of the termination hearing when parental rights have been terminated by a petition or motion
 28 brought by any person or agency designated in G.S. 7B-1103(a)(2) through (5)(6), or parental
 29 rights have been relinquished under Chapter 48 of the General Statutes, and a county director or
 30 licensed child-placing agency has custody of the juvenile, juvenile and a right to consent to
 31 adoption. The court shall conduct reviews every six months thereafter until the juvenile is the
 32 subject of a decree of adoption:

33 ...

34 (c) The court shall consider at least the following in its review and make written
 35 findings regarding the following that are relevant:

36 (1) The adequacy of the ~~plan~~ permanency plans developed by the county
 37 department of social services or a licensed child-placing agency for a
 38 permanent placement ~~relative to~~ in the juvenile's best interests and the efforts
 39 of the department or agency to implement ~~such plan~~ the plans.

40 (2) Whether the juvenile has been listed for adoptive placement with ~~the North~~
 41 ~~Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange, the North Carolina Photo Adoption~~
 42 ~~Listing Service (PALS), or any other specialized adoption agency.~~ NC Kids
 43 Adoption and Foster Care Network or any other child-specific recruitment
 44 program or whether there is an exemption to listing that the court finds is in
 45 the child's best interest.

46 (3) The efforts previously made by the department or agency to find a
 47 permanent ~~home placement~~ placement for the juvenile.

48 (4) Whether the current placement is in the juvenile's best interest.

49 (d) The court, after making findings of fact, shall ~~do one of the following:~~

50 (1) ~~Affirm the county department's or child placing agency's plans adopt~~
 51 concurrent permanent plans and identify the primary and secondary plan in

1 accordance with G.S. 7B-906.2(a)(2) through (6). The court may specify
 2 efforts that are necessary to accomplish a permanent placement that is in the
 3 best interests of the juvenile.

4 ~~(2)~~ If

5 (d1) If a juvenile is not placed with prospective adoptive parents as selected in
 6 G.S. 7B-1112.1, order a placement or different plan the court finds to be in the juvenile's best
 7 interest after considering the department's recommendations.

8 ~~In either case, the court may require specific additional steps that are necessary to accomplish a~~
 9 ~~permanent placement that is in the best interests of the juvenile.~~ the court may order a placement
 10 that the court finds to be in the juvenile's best interest after considering the department's
 11 recommendations.

12"

13 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 7B-910.1(d) read as rewritten:

14 "(d) The clerk shall give written notice of the initial and any subsequent review hearings
 15 to the young adult ~~and in~~ foster care and the director of social services at least 15 days prior to
 16 the date of the hearing."

17 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 7B-1106(a) reads as rewritten:

18 "(a) Except as provided in G.S. 7B-1105, upon the filing of the petition, the court shall
 19 cause a summons to be issued. The summons shall be directed to the following persons or
 20 agency, not otherwise a party petitioner, who shall be named as respondents:

- 21 (1) The parents of the juvenile. However, a summons does not need to be
 22 directed to or served upon any parent who, under Chapter 48 of the General
 23 Statutes, has irrevocably relinquished the juvenile to a county department of
 24 social services or licensed child-placing agency or to any parent who has
 25 consented to the adoption of the juvenile by the petitioner.
- 26 (2) Any person who has been judicially appointed as guardian of the person of
 27 the juvenile.
- 28 (3) The custodian of the juvenile appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 29 (4) Any county department of social services or licensed child-placing agency to
 30 whom a juvenile has been released by one parent pursuant to Part 7 of
 31 Article 3 of Chapter 48 of the General Statutes or any county department of
 32 social services to whom placement responsibility for the child has been
 33 given by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 34 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-38, s. 3, effective May 27, 2009.

35 The summons shall notify the respondents to file a written answer within 30 days after
 36 service of the summons and petition. Service of the summons shall be completed as provided
 37 under the procedures established by G.S. 1A-1, Rule ~~4(j)-4~~. But the parent of the juvenile shall
 38 not be deemed to be under a disability even though the parent is a minor."

39 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 7B-2503(1)c. reads as rewritten:

40 "c. If the director of the department of social services has received notice
 41 and an opportunity to be heard, place the juvenile in the custody of a
 42 department of social services in the county of the juvenile's
 43 residence, or in the case of a juvenile who has legal residence outside
 44 the State, in the physical custody of a department of social services in
 45 the county where the juvenile is found so that agency may return the
 46 juvenile to the responsible authorities in the juvenile's home state. An
 47 order placing a juvenile in the custody or placement responsibility of
 48 a county department of social services shall contain a finding that the
 49 juvenile's continuation in the juvenile's own home would be contrary
 50 to the juvenile's best interest. This placement shall be reviewed in
 51 accordance with G.S. 7B-906.1. ~~The director may, unless otherwise~~

1 ordered by the judge, arrange for, provide, or consent to, needed
2 routine or emergency medical or surgical care or treatment. In the
3 case where the parent is unknown, unavailable, or unable to act on
4 behalf of the juvenile or juveniles, the director may, unless otherwise
5 ordered by the judge, arrange for, provide or consent to any
6 psychiatric, psychological, educational, or other remedial evaluations
7 or treatment for the juvenile placed by a judge or the judge's designee
8 in the custody or physical custody of a county department of social
9 services under the authority of this or any other Chapter of the
10 General Statutes. Prior to exercising this authority, the director shall
11 make reasonable efforts to obtain consent from a parent, guardian, or
12 custodian of the affected juvenile. If the director cannot obtain
13 consent, the director shall promptly notify the parent, guardian, or
14 custodian that care or treatment has been provided and shall give the
15 parent, guardian, or custodian frequent status reports on the
16 circumstances of the juvenile. Upon request of a parent, guardian, or
17 custodian of the affected juvenile, the results or records of the
18 aforementioned evaluations, findings, or treatment shall be made
19 available to the parent, guardian, or custodian by the director unless
20 prohibited by G.S. 122C-53(d)."

21 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 7B-2506(1)c. reads as rewritten:

22 "c. If the director of the county department of social services has
23 received notice and an opportunity to be heard, place the juvenile in
24 the custody of the department of social services in the county of
25 ~~his~~the juvenile's residence, or in the case of a juvenile who has legal
26 residence outside the State, in the physical custody of a department
27 of social services in the county where the juvenile is found so that
28 agency may return the juvenile to the responsible authorities in the
29 juvenile's home state. An order placing a juvenile in the custody or
30 placement responsibility of a county department of social services
31 shall contain a finding that the juvenile's continuation in the
32 juvenile's own home would be contrary to the juvenile's best interest.
33 This placement shall be reviewed in accordance with G.S. 7B-906.1.
34 ~~The director may, unless otherwise ordered by the judge, arrange for,~~
35 ~~provide, or consent to, needed routine or emergency medical or~~
36 ~~surgical care or treatment. In the case where the parent is unknown,~~
37 ~~unavailable, or unable to act on behalf of the juvenile or juveniles,~~
38 ~~the director may, unless otherwise ordered by the judge, arrange for,~~
39 ~~provide, or consent to any psychiatric, psychological, educational, or~~
40 ~~other remedial evaluations or treatment for the juvenile placed by a~~
41 ~~judge or his designee in the custody or physical custody of a county~~
42 ~~department of social services under the authority of this or any other~~
43 ~~Chapter of the General Statutes. Prior to exercising this authority, the~~
44 ~~director shall make reasonable efforts to obtain consent from a~~
45 ~~parent, guardian, or custodian of the affected juvenile. If the director~~
46 ~~cannot obtain consent, the director shall promptly notify the parent,~~
47 ~~guardian, or custodian that care or treatment has been provided and~~
48 ~~shall give the parent, guardian, or custodian frequent status reports on~~
49 ~~the circumstances of the juvenile. Upon request of a parent, guardian,~~
50 ~~or custodian of the affected juvenile, the results or records of the~~
51 ~~aforementioned evaluations, findings, or treatment shall be made~~

1 available to the parent, guardian, or custodian by the director unless
2 prohibited by G.S. ~~122C-53(d)~~."

3 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 7B-3600 reads as rewritten:

4 **"§ 7B-3600. Judicial authorization of emergency treatment; procedure.**

5 A juvenile in need of emergency treatment under Article 1A of Chapter 90 of the General
6 Statutes, whose physician is barred from rendering necessary treatment by reason of parental
7 refusal to consent to treatment, may receive treatment with court authorization under the
8 following procedure:

9 ...

10 This Article shall operate as a remedy in addition to the provisions in ~~G.S. 7B-903,~~
11 ~~7B-2503, and 7B-2506.~~ G.S. 7B-505.1 and G.S. 7B-903.1."

12 **SECTION 15.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.