

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 362\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/22/17

Short Title: Changes to the Juvenile Code.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 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.



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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 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 7B-505. Placement while in nonsecure custody.**

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

9 (1) A licensed foster home or a home otherwise authorized by law to provide  
10 such ~~care~~; or care.

11 (2) A facility operated by the department of social ~~services~~; or services.

12 (3) Any other home or facility, including ~~a relative's home~~ the home of a parent,  
13 relative, nonrelative kin, or other person with legal custody of a sibling of  
14 the juvenile, approved by the court and designated in the order.

15 (b) ~~The court shall order the department of social services to make diligent efforts to~~  
16 ~~notify relatives and any custodial parents of the juvenile's siblings that the juvenile is in~~  
17 ~~nonsecure custody and of any hearings scheduled to occur pursuant to G.S. 7B-506, unless the~~  
18 ~~court finds such notification would be contrary to the best interests of the juvenile.~~ The court  
19 shall order the department of social services to make diligent efforts to notify relatives and  
20 other persons with legal custody of a sibling of the juvenile that the juvenile is in nonsecure  
21 custody and of any hearings scheduled to occur pursuant to G.S. 7B-506, unless the court finds  
22 the notification would be contrary to the best interests of the juvenile. In placing a juvenile in  
23 nonsecure custody under this section, the court shall first consider whether a relative of the  
24 juvenile is willing and able to provide proper care and supervision of the juvenile in a safe  
25 home. If the court finds that the relative is willing and able to provide proper care and  
26 supervision in a safe home, then the court shall order placement of the juvenile with the relative  
27 unless the court finds that placement with the relative would be contrary to the best interests of  
28 the juvenile."

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

30 **"§ 7B-505.1. Juvenile Consent for medical care for a juvenile placed in nonsecure custody**  
31 **of a department of social services.**

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

35 (1) Routine medical and dental care or ~~treatment~~; treatment, including, but not  
36 limited to, treatment for common pediatric illnesses and injuries that require  
37 prompt intervention.

38 ...."

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

40 **"§ 7B-506. Hearing to determine need for continued nonsecure custody.**

41 ...  
42 (b) At a hearing to determine the need for continued custody, the court shall receive  
43 testimony and shall allow the ~~guardian ad litem, or juvenile, and the juvenile's parent, guardian,~~  
44 ~~eustodian, or caretaker parties~~ the right to introduce evidence, to be heard in the person's own  
45 behalf, and to examine witnesses. The petitioner shall bear the burden at every stage of the  
46 proceedings to provide clear and convincing evidence that the juvenile's placement in custody  
47 is necessary. The court shall not be bound by the usual rules of evidence at such hearings.

48 ...  
49 (g1) The provisions of G.S. 7B-905.1 shall apply to determine visitation.

50 ...."

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

1 **"§ 7B-906.1. Review and permanency planning hearings.**

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

11 ...

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

14 ...

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

25 ...

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

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

29 **"§ 7B-908. Post termination of parental rights' placement court review.**

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

40 (b) The court shall conduct a placement review not later than six months from the date  
41 of the termination hearing when parental rights have been terminated by a petition or motion  
42 brought by any person or agency designated in ~~G.S. 7B-1103(2)~~ G.S. 7B-1103(a)(2) through  
43 ~~(5)-(6), or one parent's parental rights have been terminated by court order and the other~~  
44 parent's parental rights have been relinquished under Chapter 48 of the General Statutes, and a  
45 county director or licensed child-placing agency has custody of the juvenile. The court shall  
46 conduct reviews every six months thereafter until the juvenile is the subject of a decree of  
47 adoption:

48 ...

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

- 1           (1)    The adequacy of the ~~plan~~permanency plans developed by the county  
2           department of social services or a licensed child-placing agency for a  
3           permanent placement ~~relative to~~in the juvenile's best interests and the efforts  
4           of the department or agency to implement ~~such plan~~the plans.
- 5           (2)    Whether the juvenile has been listed for adoptive placement with ~~the North~~  
6           ~~Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange, the North Carolina Photo Adoption~~  
7           ~~Listing Service (PALS), or any other specialized adoption agency.~~NC Kids  
8           ~~Adoption and Foster Care Network or any other child-specific recruitment~~  
9           ~~program or whether there is an exemption to listing that the court finds is in~~  
10          ~~the child's best interest.~~
- 11          (3)    The efforts previously made by the department or agency to find a  
12          permanent ~~home~~placement for the juvenile.
- 13          (4)    Whether the current placement is in the juvenile's best interest.
- 14          (d)    The court, after making findings of fact, shall ~~do one of the following:~~adopt  
15          ~~concurrent permanent plans and identify the primary and secondary plan in accordance with~~  
16          ~~G.S. 7B-906.2(a)(2) through (6). The court may specify efforts that are necessary to accomplish~~  
17          ~~a permanent placement that is in the best interests of the juvenile.~~

18           ~~(1)    Affirm the county department's or child-placing agency's plans.~~

19           ~~(2)    If~~

20          (d1) If a juvenile is not placed with prospective adoptive parents as selected in  
21          G.S. 7B-1112.1, ~~order a placement or different plan the court finds to be in the juvenile's best~~  
22          ~~interest after considering the department's recommendations.~~the court may order a placement  
23          ~~that the court finds to be in the juvenile's best interest after considering the department's~~  
24          ~~recommendations.~~  
25          ~~In either case, the court may require specific additional steps that are necessary to accomplish a~~  
26          ~~permanent placement that is in the best interests of the juvenile.~~

27          ...."

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

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

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

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

- 36           (1)    The parents of the juvenile. However, a summons does not need to be  
37           directed to or served upon any parent who, under Chapter 48 of the General  
38           Statutes, has irrevocably relinquished the juvenile to a county department of  
39           social services or licensed child-placing agency or to any parent who has  
40           consented to the adoption of the juvenile by the petitioner.
- 41           (2)    Any person who has been judicially appointed as guardian of the person of  
42           the juvenile.
- 43           (3)    The custodian of the juvenile appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 44           (4)    Any county department of social services or licensed child-placing agency to  
45           whom a juvenile has been released by one parent pursuant to Part 7 of  
46           Article 3 of Chapter 48 of the General Statutes or any county department of  
47           social services to whom placement responsibility for the child has been  
48           given by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 49           (5)    Repealed by Session Laws 2009-38, s. 3, effective May 27, 2009.

50          The summons shall notify the respondents to file a written answer within 30 days after  
51          service of the summons and petition. Service of the summons shall be completed as provided

1 under the procedures established by G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j)-4. But the parent of the juvenile shall  
2 not be deemed to be under a disability even though the parent is a minor."

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

4 "c. If the director of the department of social services has received notice  
5 and an opportunity to be heard, place the juvenile in the custody of a  
6 department of social services in the county of the juvenile's  
7 residence, or in the case of a juvenile who has legal residence outside  
8 the State, in the physical custody of a department of social services in  
9 the county where the juvenile is found so that agency may return the  
10 juvenile to the responsible authorities in the juvenile's home state. An  
11 order placing a juvenile in the custody or placement responsibility of  
12 a county department of social services shall contain a finding that the  
13 juvenile's continuation in the juvenile's own home would be contrary  
14 to the juvenile's best interest. This placement shall be reviewed in  
15 accordance with G.S. 7B-906.1. ~~The director may, unless otherwise~~  
16 ~~ordered by the judge, arrange for, provide, or consent to, needed~~  
17 ~~routine or emergency medical or surgical care or treatment. In the~~  
18 ~~ease where the parent is unknown, unavailable, or unable to act on~~  
19 ~~behalf of the juvenile or juveniles, the director may, unless otherwise~~  
20 ~~ordered by the judge, arrange for, provide or consent to any~~  
21 ~~psychiatric, psychological, educational, or other remedial evaluations~~  
22 ~~or treatment for the juvenile placed by a judge or the judge's designee~~  
23 ~~in the custody or physical custody of a county department of social~~  
24 ~~services under the authority of this or any other Chapter of the~~  
25 ~~General Statutes. Prior to exercising this authority, the director shall~~  
26 ~~make reasonable efforts to obtain consent from a parent, guardian, or~~  
27 ~~eustodian of the affected juvenile. If the director cannot obtain~~  
28 ~~consent, the director shall promptly notify the parent, guardian, or~~  
29 ~~eustodian that care or treatment has been provided and shall give the~~  
30 ~~parent, guardian, or custodian frequent status reports on the~~  
31 ~~circumstances of the juvenile. Upon request of a parent, guardian, or~~  
32 ~~eustodian of the affected juvenile, the results or records of the~~  
33 ~~aforementioned evaluations, findings, or treatment shall be made~~  
34 ~~available to the parent, guardian, or custodian by the director unless~~  
35 ~~prohibited by G.S. 122C-53(d)."~~

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

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

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

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

19                  "**§ 7B-3600. Judicial authorization of emergency treatment; procedure.**

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

24                  ...

25                  The court's authorization for treatment under this Article shall have the same effect as  
26                  parental consent for treatment.

27                  Following the court's authorization for treatment and after giving notice to the juvenile's  
28                  parent, guardian, or custodian the court shall conduct a hearing in order to provide for payment  
29                  for the treatment rendered. The court may order the parent or other responsible parties to pay  
30                  the cost of treatment. If the court finds the parent is unable to pay the cost of treatment, the cost  
31                  shall be a charge upon the county when so ordered.

32                  This Article shall operate as a remedy in addition to the provisions in ~~G.S. 7B-903,~~  
33                  ~~7B-2503, and 7B-2506.~~ G.S. 7B-505.1 and G.S. 7B-903.1."

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