



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

***Raised Bill No. 1438***

LCO No. 5708

\*05708 \_\_\_\_\_ JUD\*

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF CERTAIN PROBATE COURT HEARINGS AND THE FILING OF CERTAIN REPORTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 45a-607 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2007*):

4 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, upon receipt  
5 of an application for temporary custody under this section, the court  
6 shall promptly set the time and place for a hearing to be held on such  
7 application. The court shall order notice of the hearing on temporary  
8 custody to be given, [by regular mail] at least five days prior to the  
9 date of the hearing, to the Commissioner of Children and Families by  
10 first class mail and [by personal service in accordance with section 52-  
11 50] to both parents and to the minor child, if over twelve years of age,  
12 [at least five days prior to the date of the hearing,] by personal service  
13 or service at the parent's usual place of abode or the minor's usual  
14 place of abode, as the case may be, in accordance with section 52-50,  
15 except that in lieu of personal service on, or service at the usual place  
16 of abode of, a parent or the father of a minor child born out of wedlock

17 who is either an applicant or who signs under penalty of false  
18 statement a written waiver of [personal] such service on a form  
19 provided by the Probate Court Administrator, the court may order  
20 notice to be given by [certified] first class mail [, return receipt  
21 requested, deliverable to addressee only,] at least five days prior to the  
22 date of the hearing. If the whereabouts of the parents are unknown, or  
23 if such delivery cannot reasonably be effected, then notice shall be  
24 ordered to be given by publication. Such notice may be combined with  
25 the notice under section 45a-609, as amended by this act, or with the  
26 notice required under section 45a-716, as amended by this act. If the  
27 parents are not residents of the state or are absent from the state, the  
28 court shall order notice to be given by [certified] first class mail [,  
29 return receipt requested, deliverable to addressee only,] at least five  
30 days prior to the date of the hearing. If the whereabouts of the parents  
31 are unknown, or if delivery cannot reasonably be effected, the court  
32 may order notice to be given by publication. Any notice by publication  
33 under this subsection shall be in a newspaper which has a circulation  
34 at the last-known place of residence of the parents. In either case, such  
35 notice shall be given at least five days prior to the date of the hearing,  
36 except in the case of notice of a hearing on immediate temporary  
37 custody under subsection (b) of this section. If the applicant alleges  
38 that the whereabouts of a respondent are unknown, such allegation  
39 shall be made under penalty of false statement and shall also state the  
40 last-known address of the respondent and the efforts which have been  
41 made by the applicant to obtain a current address. The applicant shall  
42 have the burden of ascertaining the names and addresses of all parties  
43 in interest and of proving to the satisfaction of the court that [he or she]  
44 the applicant used all proper diligence to discover such names and  
45 addresses. Except in the case of newspaper notice, such notice shall  
46 include: (1) The time and place of the hearing, (2) a copy of the  
47 application for removal or application for termination of parental  
48 rights, (3) a copy of the motion for temporary custody, (4) any affidavit  
49 or verified petition filed with the motion for temporary custody, (5)  
50 any other documents filed by the applicant, (6) any other orders or

51 notices made by the court of probate, and (7) any request for  
52 investigation by the Department of Children and Families or any other  
53 person or agency. Such notice shall also inform the respondent of the  
54 right to have an attorney represent [him or her] the respondent and, if  
55 [he or she] the respondent is unable to obtain or pay for an attorney,  
56 the respondent may request the court of probate to appoint an attorney  
57 to represent [him or her] the respondent. Newspaper notice shall  
58 include such facts as the court may direct.

59 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 45a-609 of the general statutes is  
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
61 *October 1, 2007*):

62 (b) The court shall order notice of the hearing to be given, [by  
63 regular mail] at least ten days before the date of the hearing, to the  
64 Commissioner of Children and Families by first class mail and [by  
65 personal service in accordance with section 52-50] to both parents and  
66 to the minor, if over twelve years of age, [at least ten days before the  
67 time of the hearing,] by personal service or service at the parent's usual  
68 place of abode or the minor's usual place of abode, as the case may be,  
69 in accordance with section 52-50, except that in lieu of personal service  
70 on, or service at the usual place of abode of, a parent or the father of a  
71 child born out of wedlock who is either a petitioner or who signs  
72 under oath a written waiver of [personal] such service on a form  
73 provided by the Probate Court Administrator, the court may order  
74 notice to be given by [certified] first class mail [, return receipt  
75 requested, deliverable to addressee only,] at least ten days prior to the  
76 date of the hearing. If such delivery cannot reasonably be effected, then  
77 notice shall be ordered to be given by publication. If the parents reside  
78 out of or are absent from the state, the court shall order notice to be  
79 given by [certified] first class mail [, return receipt requested,  
80 deliverable to addressee only,] at least ten days prior to the date of the  
81 hearing. If the whereabouts of the parents are unknown, or if delivery  
82 cannot reasonably be effected, the court may order notice to be given  
83 by publication. Any notice by publication under this subsection shall

84 be in [some] a newspaper which has a circulation at the parents'  
85 last-known place of residence. In either case, such notice shall be given  
86 at least ten days before the [time] date of the hearing. If the applicant  
87 alleges that the whereabouts of a respondent are unknown, such  
88 allegation shall be made under penalty of false statement and shall also  
89 state the last-known address of the respondent and the efforts which  
90 have been made by the applicant to obtain a current address. The  
91 applicant shall have the burden of ascertaining the names and  
92 addresses of all parties in interest and of proving to the satisfaction of  
93 the court that [he or she] the applicant used all proper diligence to  
94 discover such names and addresses. Except in the case of newspaper  
95 notice, the notice of hearing shall include the following: (1) The notice  
96 of hearing, (2) the application for removal of parent as guardian, (3)  
97 any supporting documents and affidavits filed with such application,  
98 (4) any other orders or [notice] notices made by the Court of Probate,  
99 and (5) any request for investigation by the Department of Children  
100 and Families or any other person or agency. Such notice shall also  
101 inform the respondent of the right to have an attorney represent [him  
102 or her] the respondent in the matter, and if [he or she] the respondent  
103 is unable to obtain or to pay an attorney, the respondent may request  
104 the Court of Probate to appoint an attorney to represent [him or her]  
105 the respondent. Newspaper notice shall include such facts as the court  
106 may direct.

107 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 45a-616 of the general statutes is  
108 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
109 *October 1, 2007*):

110 (c) Upon receipt by the court of an application pursuant to this  
111 section, the court shall set a time and place for a hearing to be held  
112 within thirty days of the application, unless the court requests an  
113 investigation in accordance with the provisions of section 45a-619, in  
114 which case the court shall set a day for hearing not more than thirty  
115 days following receipt of the results of the investigation. The court  
116 shall order notice of the hearing to be given to the minor, if over twelve

117 years of age, by [certified] first class mail [, return receipt requested,  
118 deliverable to the addressee only,] at least ten days prior to the date of  
119 the hearing. In addition, notice by [regular] first class mail shall be  
120 given to the petitioner and all other parties in interest known by the  
121 court.

122 Sec. 4. Section 45a-671 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

124 (a) Within forty-five days of the filing of such application for  
125 guardianship in the Court of Probate, such court shall assign a time  
126 and place for hearing such application. Notwithstanding the  
127 provisions of section 45a-7, the court may hold the hearing on [said]  
128 the application at a place within the state other than its usual  
129 courtroom if it would facilitate the presence of the respondent. Such  
130 court shall cause a citation and notice to be served upon the  
131 respondent by personal service made by a state marshal, constable or  
132 an indifferent person not less than seven days prior to such hearing  
133 date.

134 (b) The court shall direct notice by [certified] first class mail to the  
135 following: (1) The parents of the respondent, provided the parents are  
136 not the applicants; (2) the spouse of the respondent, provided the  
137 spouse is not the applicant; (3) children of the respondent, if any; and  
138 (4) the person in charge of the hospital, nursing home, residential  
139 facility or other institution in which the respondent may reside.

140 (c) The court shall order such notice as it directs to the following: (1)  
141 The applicant; and (2) the siblings of the respondent or their  
142 representatives, if the respondent has no living parents, and the spouse  
143 or children of the respondent.

144 (d) The court in its discretion may order such notice as it directs to  
145 other persons having an interest in the respondent.

146 Sec. 5. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 45a-716 of the general

147 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
148 (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

149 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, notice of the  
150 hearing and a copy of the petition, certified by the petitioner, the  
151 petitioner's agent or attorney, or the clerk of the court, shall be served  
152 at least ten days before the date of the hearing by personal service or  
153 service at the person's usual place of abode on the persons enumerated  
154 in subsection (b) of this section who are within the state, and by  
155 [certified] first class mail [, return receipt requested,] on the  
156 Commissioner of Children and Families and the Attorney General. If  
157 the address of any person entitled to personal service or service at the  
158 person's usual place of abode is unknown, or if personal service or  
159 service at the person's usual place of abode cannot be reasonably  
160 effected within the state, or if any person enumerated in subsection (b)  
161 of this section is out of the state, a judge or the clerk of the court shall  
162 order notice to be given by registered or certified mail, return receipt  
163 requested, or by publication at least ten days before the date of the  
164 hearing. Any such publication shall be in a newspaper of general  
165 circulation in the place of the last-known address of the person to be  
166 notified, whether within or without this state, or, if no such address is  
167 known, in the place where the petition has been filed.

168 (d) In any proceeding pending in the Court of Probate, in lieu of  
169 personal service on, or at the usual place of abode of, a parent or the  
170 father of a child born out of wedlock who is either a petitioner or who  
171 signs under penalty of false statement a written waiver of personal  
172 service on a form provided by the Probate Court Administrator, the  
173 court may order notice to be given by [certified] first class mail [,  
174 return receipt requested, deliverable to addressee only,] at least ten  
175 days before the date of the hearing. If such delivery cannot reasonably  
176 be effected, or if the whereabouts of the parents is unknown, notice  
177 shall be ordered to be given by publication as provided in subsection  
178 (c) of this section.

179 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 17a-11 of the general statutes is  
180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
181 *October 1, 2007*):

182 (c) Not more than one hundred twenty days after admitting a child  
183 or youth on a voluntary basis, the department shall petition the  
184 probate court for the district in which a parent or guardian of the child  
185 or youth resides for a determination as to whether continuation in care  
186 is in the child's or youth's best interest and, if so, whether there is an  
187 appropriate case service or permanency plan. A case service plan shall  
188 be required for all children and youths receiving services voluntarily  
189 from the department who are not in an out-of-home placement. A  
190 permanency plan shall be required for all children and youths  
191 voluntarily admitted to the department and placed by the department  
192 in a foster home licensed pursuant to section 17a-114 or a facility  
193 licensed pursuant to section 17a-145 or 17a-154. Upon receipt of such  
194 application, the court shall set a time and place for hearing to be held  
195 within thirty days of receipt of the application, unless continued by the  
196 court for cause shown. The court shall order notice of the hearing to be  
197 given by [regular] first class mail at least five days prior to the hearing  
198 to the Commissioner of Children and Families, and by [certified] first  
199 class mail [, return receipt requested,] at least five days prior to the  
200 hearing to the parents or guardian of the child and the minor, if over  
201 twelve years of age. If the whereabouts of the parent or guardian are  
202 unknown, or if delivery cannot reasonably be effected, then notice  
203 shall be ordered to be given by publication. In making its  
204 determination, the court shall consider the items specified in  
205 subsection (d) of this section. The court shall possess continuing  
206 jurisdiction in proceedings under this section.

207 Sec. 7. Section 46b-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
208 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

209 Any minor who has reached such minor's sixteenth birthday and is  
210 residing in this state, or any parent or guardian of such minor, may

211 petition the superior court for juvenile matters or the probate court for  
212 the district in which either the minor or the parents or guardian of  
213 such minor resides for a determination that the minor named in the  
214 petition be emancipated. The petition shall be verified and shall state  
215 plainly: (1) The facts which bring the minor within the jurisdiction of  
216 the court, (2) the name, date of birth, sex and residence of the minor,  
217 (3) the name and residence of the minor's parent, parents or guardian,  
218 and (4) the name of the petitioner and the petitioner's relationship to  
219 the minor. Upon the filing of the petition in the Superior Court, the  
220 court shall cause a summons to be issued to the minor and the minor's  
221 parent, parents or guardian, in the manner provided in section 46b-  
222 128. Service on an emancipation petition filed in the superior court for  
223 juvenile matters pursuant to this section shall not be required on the  
224 petitioning party. Upon the filing of the petition in the Probate Court,  
225 the court shall assign a time, not later than thirty days thereafter, and a  
226 place for hearing such petition. The court shall cause a citation and  
227 notice to be served on the minor and the minor's parent, if the parent is  
228 not the petitioner, by personal service or service at the minor's place of  
229 abode and the parent's place of abode, at least seven days prior to the  
230 hearing date, by a state marshal, constable or indifferent person. The  
231 court shall direct notice by [certified] first class mail to the parent, if  
232 the parent is the petitioner. The court shall order such notice as it  
233 directs to: (A) The Commissioner of Children and Families, (B) the  
234 Attorney General, and (C) other persons having an interest in the  
235 minor. The Attorney General may file an appearance and shall be and  
236 remain a party to the action if the child is receiving or has received aid  
237 or care from the state, or if the child is receiving child support  
238 enforcement services, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
239 section 46b-231.

240 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 46b-172a of the general statutes is  
241 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
242 *October 1, 2007*):

243 (a) Any person claiming to be the father of a child born out of



244 wedlock may at any time, but no later than sixty days after the date of  
245 notice under section 45a-716, as amended by this act, file a claim for  
246 paternity with the court of probate for the district in which either the  
247 mother or the child resides, on forms provided by such court. The  
248 claim shall contain the claimant's name and address, the name and  
249 last-known address of the mother and the month and year of the birth  
250 or expected birth of the child. Not later than five days after the filing of  
251 a claim for paternity, the judge of the court of probate shall cause a  
252 certified copy of such claim to be [mailed by certified mail to] served  
253 upon the mother or prospective mother of such child [at the  
254 last-known address shown on the claim for paternity] by personal  
255 service or service at her usual place of abode, and to the Attorney  
256 General by first class mail. The Attorney General may file an  
257 appearance and shall be and remain a party to the action if the child is  
258 receiving or has received aid or care from the state, or if the child is  
259 receiving child support enforcement services, as defined in subdivision  
260 (2) of subsection (b) of section 46b-231. The claim for paternity shall be  
261 admissible in any action for paternity under section 46b-160, and shall  
262 estop the claimant from denying his paternity of such child and shall  
263 contain language that he acknowledges liability for contribution to the  
264 support and education of the child after its birth and for contribution  
265 to the pregnancy-related medical expenses of the mother.

266 Sec. 9. Subsection (g) of section 45a-92 of the general statutes is  
267 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
268 *October 1, 2007*):

269 (g) Upon the completion of each calendar year, and in any event on  
270 or before the first day of [~~April~~] March of the succeeding calendar year,  
271 each person required to make payment under this section shall make a  
272 report signed under penalty of false statement to the Probate Court  
273 Administrator, upon forms prescribed by and subject to regulations  
274 [~~promulgated~~] issued by the administrator, of the following: (1) The  
275 gross income received by virtue of such office; (2) actual expenses  
276 incurred in connection with the office; (3) the net income of such office

277 prior to the payment of the assessment installments hereinbefore  
 278 provided; (4) the amount paid during the preceding calendar year to  
 279 the State Treasurer on account of the foregoing estimate; and (5) the  
 280 amount of the difference, if any, between the amount so paid and the  
 281 amount actually due. [This] The report shall be open to public  
 282 inspection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-607(c)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-609(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-616(c)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-671
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-716(c) and (d)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	17a-11(c)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	46b-150
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	46b-172a(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	45a-92(g)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) amend the methods for delivering or serving notice of certain probate court hearings, and (2) change from April to March the deadline for the filing of reports related to certain assessments due from probate judges.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*