



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5186

February Session, 2012

* _____HB05186HS_____032612_____*

AN ACT ADOPTING A FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2012*) (a) There is established a
2 foster parent bill of rights for any person who is licensed as a foster
3 parent by the Department of Children and Families. A foster parent's
4 rights include, but are not limited to, the following:

5 (1) To be treated with consideration and respect as a member of the
6 placement team for the foster child;

7 (2) To be notified of meetings scheduled by the department
8 concerning the foster child in order to allow the foster parent to
9 actively participate and have input into the case planning and
10 decision-making process regarding the foster child;

11 (3) To be notified of court hearings and administrative case review
12 meetings concerning a foster child in his or her care;

13 (4) To be provided with support services to assist in the care of the
14 foster child that are consistent with the foster child's approved
15 permanency plan;

16 (5) To be provided with open, complete and timely responses to
17 requests for additional information that is relevant to the care of the
18 foster child;

19 (6) To be provided with information concerning the foster child's
20 medical history, general behavior and relationships with other foster
21 parents, as permitted under state and federal law;

22 (7) To be provided with information concerning the educational
23 history, life experiences and placement circumstances of the foster
24 child, as permitted under state and federal law;

25 (8) To be provided with information on all department policies and
26 procedures that relate to the role of a foster parent;

27 (9) To be provided with appropriate training to enhance relevant
28 skills and abilities of the foster parent;

29 (10) To be provided with information on support services that are
30 available through the department for a foster child;

31 (11) To be provided with an opportunity to be heard regarding
32 department decisions and practices with respect to the foster child or
33 the role of a foster parent, without the department retaliating against a
34 foster parent who questions or appeals a decision or practice of the
35 department;

36 (12) To be provided with information that allows the foster parent to
37 contact the department twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week
38 for the purpose of receiving departmental assistance to address the
39 needs of a foster child in such foster parent's care; and

40 (13) To be provided with a copy of the foster parent bill of rights
41 when a child is placed in foster care with the foster parent and at any
42 time thereafter upon request of the foster parent.

43 (b) This section does not create, and may not be construed to create,
44 a cause of action for a foster parent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

