



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 72***

LCO No. 722



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A NOTIFICATION OF SUPPORT FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) Not later than January  
2 1, 2017, the Department of Children and Families shall develop a  
3 notification of support to inform foster parents and relative caregivers  
4 of their privileges under various state programs. On and after January  
5 1, 2017, the department shall provide a copy of the notification of  
6 support to foster parents and relative caregivers at the time of the  
7 placement of a child with the foster parent or relative caregiver and  
8 upon request of a foster parent or relative caregiver.

9 (b) The notification of support shall include, but need not be limited  
10 to, information regarding:

11 (1) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be a  
12 member of the child's placement and treatment teams and to be  
13 notified of and included in meetings scheduled by the department  
14 concerning the child;

15 (2) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to  
16 communicate with the child's social worker to share information  
17 regarding the child's domestic, social, educational, medical and mental  
18 health needs;

19 (3) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be timely  
20 notified of all court hearings and administrative case review meetings  
21 including, but not limited to, permanency hearings and hearings on  
22 motions to revoke commitment concerning a child in the care of the  
23 foster parent or relative caregiver;

24 (4) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be  
25 provided with information, support and guidance from professional  
26 service providers, including, but not limited to, referrals to other  
27 professionals regarding the child and assistance in identifying and  
28 obtaining services for a child in the care of the foster parent or relative  
29 caregiver;

30 (5) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to receive  
31 open and timely responses to requests for information or services that  
32 are relevant to the care of a child in the care of the foster parent or  
33 relative caregiver, including, but not limited to, access to a regional  
34 office on-call system and careline numbers to enable the foster parent  
35 or relative caregiver to contact professional staff after normal business  
36 hours;

37 (6) For a foster parent or relative caregiver who accepts an  
38 emergency placement, the foster parent's and relative caregiver's  
39 privilege to be provided with information to meet the child's  
40 immediate needs not later than twenty-four hours after the time the  
41 child is placed or, if such information about the child is not available at  
42 the time of placement, not later than thirty days after the date of  
43 placement;

44 (7) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to have  
45 access to records pertaining to the domestic, social, educational,

46 medical and mental health needs of a child placed or being considered  
47 for placement with such foster parent or relative caregiver, provided  
48 no information identifying the child's birth parents shall be disclosed  
49 without such birth parents' permission;

50 (8) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be  
51 provided information concerning the department's policies regarding  
52 the role and responsibilities of a foster parent or relative caregiver;

53 (9) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be  
54 provided appropriate training and support to enhance the parent's or  
55 caregiver's relevant skills in order to meet any post-licensing training  
56 requirements;

57 (10) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to express  
58 concerns about a child's treatment plan, advocate for services on behalf  
59 of a child, refuse to accept a child for placement, request removal of a  
60 child for good cause or communicate with a child's former foster  
61 parent, prospective adoptive parent, relative caregiver or birth parent  
62 without risk of retaliation by the department;

63 (11) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to seek  
64 assistance regarding the problem resolution process through the  
65 department's chain of command as described in the department's  
66 Foster Parent and Adoptive Parent Handbook; and

67 (12) The foster parent's and relative caregiver's privilege to be  
68 provided with a copy of the notification of support upon a child's  
69 placement with the foster parent or relative caregiver and at any time  
70 thereafter upon request of the foster parent or relative caregiver  
71 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

72 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating or  
73 permitting a cause of action for a violation of any provision of this  
74 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide information and support for foster parents and relative caregivers by aggregating the various privileges and options available to such parents and caregivers in a single document and distributing the document to such parents and caregivers at the time of placement of a child or at such parents' or caregivers' request.

*[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.]*