



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	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	New section

KID *Joint Favorable*