



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

***Raised Bill No. 324***

LCO No. 1537



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "parent" means a person who is the biological or adoptive  
3 parent of a child placed in the care or custody of the Commissioner of  
4 Children and Families pursuant to an order of temporary custody or  
5 commitment.

6 (b) Not later than January 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Children  
7 and Families shall establish a parents' bill of rights. Such bill of rights  
8 shall include, but not be limited to, the right to (1) be treated fairly and  
9 respectfully by employees of the Department of Children and Families,  
10 (2) be provided the opportunity to be heard regarding decisions made  
11 pertaining to such parent's child when appropriate and practicable, (3)  
12 be provided with open, complete and timely responses to questions or  
13 requests for information relevant to such child or such child's case  
14 when appropriate and practicable, and (4) be provided with  
15 information on department policies and procedures that relate to such  
16 parent or child.

17 (c) The rights accorded parents pursuant to such bill of rights shall  
18 be available only insofar as they are implemented in accordance with  
19 the policies of the Department of Children and Families, the  
20 regulations of Connecticut state agencies, other parts of the general  
21 statutes, federal law, the Constitution of the state and the Constitution  
22 of the United States. This section does not create a cause of action for a  
23 parent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to establish a parents' bill of rights for biological and adoptive parents whose children are placed in out-of-home placements by the Department of Children and Families.

*[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.]*