

Foster Parent Notification and Notice

The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (Subcommittee) was given the following charge by the Advisory Committee on Children and Families:
Recommend procedures and possible rules to ensure that courts comply with statutory requirements for notice to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers for court hearings.

The Subcommittee makes the following recommendations:

1. The Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services should advocate for enactment of statutory change to ORC 2151.42 as proposed by the Subcommittee that:
 - a. Aligns language with other existing statutes.
 - b. Replaces the right to present evidence with the right to be heard.
2. The Supreme Court of Ohio should encourage all courts with juvenile jurisdiction to adopt a local rule that ensures that a foster parent, kinship caregiver or prospective adoptive parent (caregiver) has the ability to provide meaningful information to the court about a child in their care. The rule should, at a minimum, :
 - a. Set forth the process between the PCSA and court for caregiver notice.
 - b. Require the PCSA to notify the court of an initial placement or change in placement the next business day, and no later than within seven days from the placement.
 - c. Specify the court as responsible for providing notice to caregivers.
 - d. Require that information regarding the identity or contact information for the caregiver not accessible to the public and that it be maintained in the court's non-public (family) file.
 - e. Provide alternate ways that the caregiver can provide information to the court.
3. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services should adapt the Notice of Out of County Placement form to create a SACWIS-generated Notice of Initial/Change In Placement form to meet the requirements of 2(b).
4. To support courts' ability to enact a local rule, the Supreme Court of Ohio should distribute the following items to all Ohio's judicial officers with juvenile jurisdiction:
 - a. Model Rule for Caregiver Notice
 - b. Caregiver Information Form
 - c. Notice to Caregiver Form