

Foster
Family
Alliance
of North Carolina

What we do

Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina is a FAMILY-LED, non-profit organization supporting children and youth served through the foster care system and the dedicated families and professionals that care for them.



Foster Parents' Bill of Rights

Session Law 2021-144 • House Bill 769

The State of North Carolina:

- acknowledges foster parents have a vital role in supporting children and families,
- recognizes it takes a team to address the challenges families face, and
- supports and promotes the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights.



Foster Parents' Bill of Rights (1)

(1) To serve as a respected member of the child welfare team. Foster parents will also honor children placed in their homes in accordance with G.S. 131D-10.1.

G.S. 131D-10.1

Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights



Foster Parents' Bill of Rights (2)

(2) To receive information about the responsibilities of foster parents and access to support services...



b. Access to the Division of Social Services and licensing agency policies, including traveling with children in- and out-of-state, family visits and time, supervised and unsupervised, complaint and grievance policies, and confidentiality.

c. Any known information to help better care for children, including health and behavioral health history, disability, exposure to trauma, and educational needs. d. Additional or necessary information that the county department of social services has that may be relevant to the care of the child when the child is placed with the foster parents.

e. Advance notice of scheduled meetings and appointments regarding case planning and care of the child.

f. Reasonable notice, subject to the circumstances of each particular case, to a foster parent with regard to the removal of a child from the foster home.

g. Participation in transition planning when it is in the best interest of the child.

h. 24/7 emergency contact information in the event of crisis or emergency

i. Referral to resources for dealing with loss and separation when children return home to their parents.

- (3) Be notified of any costs or expenses that may be eligible for reimbursement.
- (4) Have timely allocation of resources, including submission of child care vouchers and a monthly stipend that meets or exceeds the rate established by the Division of Social Services.
- (5) Receive notice of hearings regarding the child placed in the foster home and to be heard in court, either verbally or in writing, as provided for in G.S. 7B-906.1.
- (6) Receive timely information pertinent to the day-to-day care of the child, including educational and health needs.
- (7) Have input in court and be included as a valued member of the child's team, including the right to be informed by the clerk of court of periodic reviews of the juvenile case of a child in foster care at least 15 days before each review, and the right to provide input, verbal or written, during periodic reviews of any information that may be relevant to a child's best interests so that the court may use that information in forming its opinion on the case.

(8) Provide input to, advocate for, and seek out support from the supervising agency without fear of reprisal, including the right to request respite as needed or to request a break between placements.

(9) Be allowed reasonable opportunities to be consulted with and considered in the scheduling of home visits, therapies, and other meetings related to the child that the foster or resource parents are allowed or required to attend.

(10) Request a change in licensing workers.

(11)

(12) Utilize the reasonable and prudent parent standard in determining whether a foster parent can allow a child in the foster parent's care to participate in educational field trips and extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. This standard is characterized by careful and thoughtful parental decision-making that is intended to maintain a child's health, safety, and best interest while encouraging the child's social, emotional, and developmental growth.

Foster Parents' Bill of Rights (3)

(11) Be considered as prospective adoptive placement after a termination of parental rights hearing or relinquishment pursuant to G.S. 7B-1112.1.

G.S. 7B-1112.1- Selection of adoptive parents

- any current placement provider wanting to adopt shall be considered
- you shall be notified within 10 days of selection and before filing
- you can file a motion within 10 days to schedule a hearing




(13) Request a shared parenting agreement that includes clear expectations and appropriate boundaries for all parties.

(14) Request contact information be kept confidential by the supervising agency when safety concerns are present.

Limits on Foster Parent Rights

“A violation of this Bill of Rights shall not be construed to create a cause of action under this section against the State, the Department of Health and Human Services, private supervising agencies, local county departments of social services, or an entity providing foster care pursuant to this Article. Nothing in this Bill of Rights shall override existing law or administrative rule.”



A photograph of a diverse foster family. A man with short dark hair and a blue shirt is smiling, with a young girl with curly hair and a yellow sweater sitting on his shoulders. A woman with long dark hair and a blue shirt is smiling, with a young boy with curly hair and a pink shirt sitting on her shoulders. They are outdoors, with trees and a fence visible in the background.

***Foster parents are a
valuable part of the
team serving children
and their families***

They should always be treated with dignity, respect, and trust

September 10, 2021

Public

Judiciary
Proposed Senate Committee Substitute #12
H.B. 769

SESSION LAW _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A BILL OF RIGHTS RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS OF FOSTER PARENTS IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Introduced by Representative(s): Willis, Stevens, Paré, and Winslow (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of cosponsors for this bill, please see the report inside the bill jacket.

Principal Clerk's Use Only

SENATE Committee Substitute 2 Adopted Pursuant to Rule 45.1 AUG 24 2021	Need for Concurrence in Sen. Amended CS #2 AUG 31 2021 <small>Place on Calendar 30th</small>	RATIFIED ON <u>September 4, 2021</u>
REFERRAL: to the Senate	House concurs in Sen. Amended CS #2 104-0 EV JUNE CHANGE AUG 31 2021 AND ORDERED ENROLLED	

ORDERED SENT TO GOVERNOR
Special Message
Janis White

RECEIVED FROM HOUSE
August 31, 2021
BY Oliver Blessing

REPORTED FAVORABLY AUG 25 2021

PASSED 2nd & 3rd READINGS
(42-0) VV
AUG 26 2021

AND ORDERED SENT TO HOUSE OF REPS.

ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS





Looking at the numbers....

Gaston County as of April 1, 2023

Total	0-5	6-12	13-17	18+
438	36%	32%	24%	
	8%			

Mecklenburg as of April 1, 2023

Total	0-5	6-12	13-17	18+
528	38%	29%	26%	
	8%			

Permanency within 12 months

National	North Carolina	Gaston County	vs
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2023 Needs Assessment

Best parts of being a foster parent

1. Relationship you build with the child
2. Emotionally rewarding

Retention of Foster Parents

1. Support directly from front line staff
2. Access to quality providers

Hardest parts of being a Foster Parent

1. Behavioral challenges
2. Being disrespected by DSS



2023 We Need You!

North Carolina currently has over 5,500 licensed homes. However, the reality is that just two years ago, North Carolina had just over 7,000 homes licensed. As a State, we are in a position where we need more homes on a daily basis.

Currently, around 28% of youth in custody are in relative placements. With more than 11,000 children in custody, we are in dire need of foster homes.

The number one recruitment tool is YOU!

It's the conversations and interactions that you have on a daily basis with your co-workers, your church families, neighbors and friends. It's the intimate, one on one conversations that lead to more families signing up to foster. If every family fostering would recruit one family, North Carolina would be able to have enough families to serve the children in need.

Legal Options for Kinship Caregivers in North Carolina

Lunch & Learn: Tues, May 16 at 12 pm

When Child Welfare **IS** Involved

- ✔ Informal Agreement
- ✔ Power of Attorney
- ✔ Custody
- ✔ Adoption

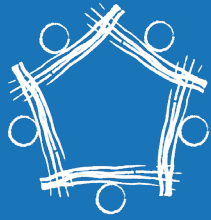
MORE INFO

- ✔ Making the Decision
- ✔ Finding an Attorney
- ✔ Additional Resources

When Child Welfare **IS NOT** Involved

- ✔ Temporary Parental Safety Agreement
- ✔ Becoming a Licensed Foster Parent
- ✔ Caregiving Without Becoming a Foster Parent
- ✔ Guardianship
- ✔ Adoption





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Attention Foster, Kinship & Adoptive Families

Does the child in your care struggle in school?

Does the child in your care need advocacy support in school?

Is the child being suspended or delayed in enrolling?

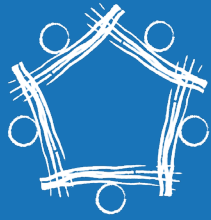
We can support you by educating the team and attending meetings virtually if needed.



Contact Foster Family Alliance

800-578-7777

info@ffa-nc.org



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How to contact us?

Our website: www.ffa-nc.org

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