

House Bill 927

By: Representatives Nimmer of the 178th, Dempsey of the 13th, Oliver of the 82nd, LaRiccia of the 169th, Houston of the 170th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to dependency proceedings, so as to require
3 certain information be provided to a caregiver, foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative
4 by DFCS upon placement of a child; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to general provisions relative to dependency proceedings, is amended by revising
10 Code Section 15-11-109, relating to notice of hearings to specified nonparties, as follows:

11 "15-11-109.

12 (a) In advance of each hearing or review, DFCS shall give written notice of the date, time,
13 place, and purpose of the review or hearing, including the right to be heard, to the caregiver
14 of a child, the foster parent of a child, any preadoptive parent, or any relative providing
15 care for a child. The written notice shall be delivered to the recipient at least 72 hours
16 before the review or hearing, except in the case of preliminary protective hearings or
17 emergency hearings when such notice is not possible, by United States mail, e-mail, or
18 hand delivery.

19 (b) Notice of a hearing or review shall not be construed to require a legal custodian, foster
20 parent, preadoptive parent, or relative caring for a child to be made a party to the hearing
21 or review solely on the basis of such notice and opportunity to be heard.

22 (c) Upon placement of a child, DFCS shall provide the caregiver, foster parent,
23 preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for such child with the following information
24 in writing:

25 (1) At the time of placement, if available, but no later than 30 days after the child is
26 placed in the home or facility:

27 (A) A copy of or recommendations from the child's most recent physical and dental
28 examinations and any available information on the child's known medical conditions
29 and current medications;

30 (B) A copy of or recommendations from the child's most recent developmental
31 assessment, trauma assessment, and psychological evaluation;

32 (C) A copy of any court scheduling order or the dates and times for any scheduled
33 hearings relating to the child; and

34 (D) Health insurance information for the child, including the child's Medicaid number.

35 Provision of records in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered a violation
36 of subsection (b) of Code Section 49-5-40; and

37 (2) At the time of placement:

38 (A) An explanation of the process for enrolling the child in school and any information
39 necessary to complete the process;

40 (B) A description of any financial assistance for which the caregiver, foster parent,
41 preadoptive parent, or relative may be eligible, including any financial assistance
42 available for child care;

43 (C) A description of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard defined in Code
44 Section 49-5-3; and

45 (D) Contact information for a county or district department of family and children
46 services."

47 **SECTION 2.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.