

NUMBER
#19-68-22

DATE
October 31, 2019

OF INTEREST TO
County Directors
Social Services Supervisors and
Staff
Court Administrators
County Attorneys

ACTION/DUE DATE
Please read information and
prepare for implementation

EXPIRATION DATE
October 31, 2021

New Notice of Hearing—Foster Parent Form

TOPIC

New Notice of Hearing form for foster parent/s

PURPOSE

To announce use of the new Notice of Hearing—Foster Parent form that was made effective on October 4, 2019.

CONTACT

Child Safety and Permanency Division:

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SIGNED

LISA PRITCHARD BAYLEY
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

Background

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) participated in its third Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) in August 2016, which was a review of the state's child welfare system by the federal Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. The reviews are authorized by 1994 amendments to the Social Security Act and are structured to help state agencies identify strengths and areas needing improvement in specific aspects of child welfare programs. The goals of the CFSR are to help state agencies improve child welfare services and achieve positive outcomes for children and families served by this system.

The results of the CFSR indicated that Minnesota was not in substantial conformity with any of the safety, permanency and well-being outcomes, but was in substantial conformity with one of seven systemic factors. As a result, department staff developed a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) that identified goals, strategies, and key activities for improving the child welfare system.

The Notice of Hearing is part of the PIP goal to improve timeliness to permanency through technical assistance to local agencies, and improved engagement of and communication with resource families. The strategy is to refine methods for providing notice of court hearings to resource families, informing them of their right to be heard in court hearings for children in their care.

For information on the CFSR final report, see acf.hhs.gov, and the approved [Minnesota Child and Family Services Review Round 3 – Program Improvement Plan \(PDF\)](#).

Purpose

The purpose is to announce availability of the new Notice of Hearing—Foster Parent form, that was distributed to court administrators statewide, effective on October 4, 2019. County attorneys will be responsible to determine if foster parents are present at court hearings.

The notice gives foster parent/s the opportunity to participate in and provide information to the court regarding children or youth in their care. The notice includes the following information (Appendix A): Juvenile court file information, hearing information, reason for notice, participant's rights, and how to participate in the hearing.

For more information on this notice check with your local court administrator.

Upcoming developments

A foster parent's guide to court will be released in early 2020.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4670 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.

**NOTICE OF HEARING –
FOSTER PARENT**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of:

HEARING INFORMATION

A hearing will take place in court:

Hearing Address
Hearing Type
Time of Hearing
Judicial Officer Name
Name County District Court
Courtroom A
Court Location Address
Court Phone Number

WHY YOU ARE GETTING NOTICE OF THE HEARING

You have been served with this Notice of Hearing because you are the foster parent for the child(ren). According to Minnesota law, **foster parents are “participants” and have a special role in these court proceedings.**

Foster parents often have valuable information about how the child is doing physically, emotionally, educationally, and socially. This kind of information may help the court to understand the child’s needs. If you have been supervising visits between the child and a parent, you may also have some information about the parent’s progress to give to the court.

PARTICIPANT RIGHTS

As a participant, you have the right to:

- Receive a copy of the *Petition* regarding this Juvenile Protection Matter.
- Receive notice of all hearings (but only if you keep your address updated with court administration).
- Attend all hearings, unless excluded by the Court.
- Be represented by an attorney.
- Be heard and offer information at each hearing.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING

You may attend **in person** and have the right to be heard.

- When you get to the courtroom, please tell the Assistant County Attorney that you are present so they can tell the judge.
- You may be able to participate in the hearing **by phone**. Contact court administration at the number listed above *at least two business days before the hearing* to see if this option is available.

To receive an eReminder for future court dates via e-mail or text, visit www.mncourts.gov/Hearing-eReminders.aspx or scan the QR code to enroll.



Dated: October 29, 2019

Mary P. Dalbec
Carver County Court Administrator