

# **Foster Parents, Pre-Adoptive Parents and Relative Caretakers - Notice of Court Proceedings**

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

**Policy: 700.0095**

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The Department of Children, Youth and Families, in accordance with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (PL 105-89) and Rhode Island General Law 14-1-30.2, provides notice to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relatives, with whom children in the care of the Department are placed, of any review or hearing held in Family Court with respect to those children. This includes all hearings scheduled both prior to and subsequent to commitment resulting from dependency/neglect/abuse petitions and all hearings related to termination of parental rights petitions.

Caretakers are important to the child and can provide valuable information to the Family Court. They have the right to attend these court proceedings and to present verbal reports or file written reports with the Court regarding the children in their care.

## **Related Procedure**

[Foster Parents, Pre-Adoptive Parents and Relative Caretakers - Notice of Court Proceedings](#)

## Foster Parents, Pre-Adoptive Parents and Relative Caretakers - Notice of Court Proceedings

### **Procedure From Policy 700.0095: Foster Parents, Pre-Adoptive Parents and Relative Caretakers - Notice of Court Proceedings**

- A. Primary service worker notifies foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relative caretakers of any court proceedings regarding children in their care.
  - 1. Primary service worker sends a **Notice of Court Proceedings** (DCYF #083), if possible, to caretaker no later than two (2) weeks prior to the date of scheduled proceedings.
  - 2. A copy of each notification letter is filed in the DCYF case record, and a copy is sent to the DCYF Office of Legal Counsel to be incorporated into the legal file.
  - 3. Situations arise in which court proceedings are scheduled with little advance notice. If it is not possible to provide written notification to caretakers within two weeks of a court proceeding, the worker notifies the caretaker verbally once worker is informed of a court date. Worker documents this verbal notification to caretakers in a Case Activity Note.
  
- B. The **Notice of Court Proceedings** (DCYF #083) notifies caretakers of their right to attend Family Court Proceedings regarding children in their care and that they have the right to file a written or verbal report with the Court to convey information relevant to those children.
  
- C. In accordance with Rhode Island General Law 14-1-30.2, foster parents/relative caretakers and pre-adoptive parents are not deemed to be parties to the proceedings and therefore are not entitled to:
  - 1. Present testimony through the presentation of witnesses.
  - 2. Question or cross examine witnesses in any such Court proceedings.