

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Foster Parent Law is amended by changing
5 Section 1-15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 520/1-15)

7 Sec. 1-15. Foster parent rights. A foster parent's rights
8 include, but are not limited to, the following:

9 (1) The right to be treated with dignity, respect, and
10 consideration as a professional member of the child
11 welfare team.

12 (2) The right to be given standardized pre-service
13 training and appropriate ongoing training to meet mutually
14 assessed needs and improve the foster parent's skills.

15 (3) The right to be informed as to how to contact the
16 appropriate child placement agency in order to receive
17 information and assistance to access supportive services
18 for children in the foster parent's care.

19 (4) The right to receive timely financial
20 reimbursement commensurate with the care needs of the
21 child as specified in the service plan. This shall include
22 an initial payment of \$480 per child to be made within 21
23 days of a permanent placement. If the final monthly

1 payment for a child amounts to \$480 or more, the amount of
2 \$480 shall be deducted from the final monthly payment. If
3 the final monthly payment amounts to less than \$480, the
4 final monthly payment shall not be made.

5 (5) The right to be provided a clear, written
6 understanding of a placement agency's plan concerning the
7 placement of a child in the foster parent's home. Inherent
8 in this right is the foster parent's responsibility to
9 support activities that will promote the child's right to
10 relationships with his or her own family and cultural
11 heritage.

12 (6) The right to be provided a fair, timely, and
13 impartial investigation of complaints concerning the
14 foster parent's licensure, to be provided the opportunity
15 to have a person of the foster parent's choosing present
16 during the investigation, and to be provided due process
17 during the investigation; the right to be provided the
18 opportunity to request and receive mediation or an
19 administrative review of decisions that affect licensing
20 parameters, or both mediation and an administrative
21 review; and the right to have decisions concerning a
22 licensing corrective action plan specifically explained
23 and tied to the licensing standards violated.

24 (7) The right, at any time during which a child is
25 placed with the foster parent, to receive additional or
26 necessary information that is relevant to the care of the

1 child.

2 (7.5) The right to be given information concerning a
3 child (i) from the Department as required under subsection
4 (u) of Section 5 of the Children and Family Services Act
5 and (ii) from a child welfare agency as required under
6 subsection (c-5) of Section 7.4 of the Child Care Act of
7 1969.

8 (8) The right to be notified of scheduled meetings and
9 staffings concerning the foster child in order to actively
10 participate in the case planning and decision-making
11 process regarding the child, including individual service
12 planning meetings, administrative case reviews,
13 interdisciplinary staffings, and individual educational
14 planning meetings; the right to be informed of decisions
15 made by the courts or the child welfare agency concerning
16 the child; the right to provide input concerning the plan
17 of services for the child and to have that input given full
18 consideration in the same manner as information presented
19 by any other professional on the team; and the right to
20 communicate with other professionals who work with the
21 foster child within the context of the team, including
22 therapists, physicians, attending health care
23 professionals, and teachers.

24 (9) The right to be given, in a timely and consistent
25 manner, any information a case worker has regarding the
26 child and the child's family which is pertinent to the

1 care and needs of the child and to the making of a
2 permanency plan for the child. Disclosure of information
3 concerning the child's family shall be limited to that
4 information that is essential for understanding the needs
5 of and providing care to the child in order to protect the
6 rights of the child's family. When a positive relationship
7 exists between the foster parent and the child's family,
8 the child's family may consent to disclosure of additional
9 information.

10 (10) The right to be given reasonable written notice
11 of (i) any change in a child's case plan, (ii) plans to
12 terminate the placement of the child with the foster
13 parent, and (iii) the reasons for the change or
14 termination in placement. The notice shall be waived only
15 in cases of a court order or when the child is determined
16 to be at imminent risk of harm.

17 (11) The right to be notified in a timely and complete
18 manner of all court hearings, including notice of the date
19 and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge or
20 hearing officer hearing the case, the location of the
21 hearing, and the court docket number of the case; and the
22 right to intervene in court proceedings or to seek
23 mandamus under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

24 (12) The right to be considered as a placement option
25 when a foster child who was formerly placed with the
26 foster parent is to be re-entered into foster care, if

1 that placement is consistent with the best interest of the
2 child and other children in the foster parent's home.

3 (13) The right to have timely access to the child
4 placement agency's existing appeals process and the right
5 to be free from acts of harassment and retaliation by any
6 other party when exercising the right to appeal.

7 (14) The right to be informed of the Foster Parent
8 Hotline established under Section 35.6 of the Children and
9 Family Services Act and all of the rights accorded to
10 foster parents concerning reports of misconduct by
11 Department employees, service providers, or contractors,
12 confidential handling of those reports, and investigation
13 by the Inspector General appointed under Section 35.5 of
14 the Children and Family Services Act.

15 (Source: P.A. 99-581, eff. 1-1-17.)