



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2599

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Adam M. Niemerg

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/5e
20 ILCS 520/1-30

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. In provisions concerning the Advocacy Office for Children and Families, requires the Advocacy Office to designate for each foster child an employee with legal knowledge of the foster process to guide foster parents throughout the foster process and keep them informed of their rights and responsibilities. Amends the Foster Parent Law. Creates a private right of action under specified provisions of the Act concerning foster parent rights.

LRB104 10344 JRC 20418 b

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 Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by changing Section 5e as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/5e)

7 Sec. 5e. Advocacy Office for Children and Families.

8 (a) The Department of Children and Family Services shall
9 establish and maintain an Advocacy Office for Children and
10 Families that shall, in addition to other duties assigned by
11 the Director, receive and respond to complaints that may be
12 filed by children, parents, caretakers, and relatives of
13 children receiving child welfare services from the Department
14 of Children and Family Services or its agents. The Department
15 shall promulgate policies and procedures for filing,
16 processing, investigating, and resolving the complaints. The
17 Department shall make a final report to the complainant of its
18 findings. If a final report is not completed, the Department
19 shall report on its disposition every 30 days.

20 (b) If a youth in care, current foster parent or
21 caregiver, or caseworker requests the information, the
22 Advocacy Office shall make available the name, electronic mail
23 address, and telephone number for each youth's court-appointed

1 guardian ad litem and, if applicable, the guardian ad litem's
2 supervisor.

3 (c) The Advocacy Office shall include a statewide
4 toll-free telephone number and an electronic mail address that
5 may be used to file complaints, to obtain information about
6 the delivery of child welfare services by the Department or
7 its agents, and to obtain the contact information for the
8 guardian ad litem. This telephone number and electronic mail
9 address shall be included in all appropriate notices and
10 handbooks regarding services available through the Department.

11 (d) The Department shall provide a flyer to all youth
12 entering care describing the responsibilities of the Advocacy
13 Office listed in this Section, the toll-free telephone number
14 and electronic mailing address for the Advocacy Office, and a
15 description of the role of a guardian ad litem. The Department
16 shall also provide this flyer to youth at every administrative
17 case review.

18 (e) The Advocacy Office shall designate for each foster
19 child an employee with legal knowledge of the foster process
20 to guide foster parents throughout the foster process and keep
21 them informed of their rights and responsibilities.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-208, eff. 7-30-21.)

23 Section 10. The Foster Parent Law is amended by changing
24 Section 1-30 as follows:

1 (20 ILCS 520/1-30)

2 Sec. 1-30. No private right of action or claim. Nothing in
3 this Law shall be construed to create a private right of action
4 or claim on the part of any individual or child welfare agency,
5 except for paragraphs (6), (7.5), (10), and (11) of Section
6 1-15 of this Act.

7 (Source: P.A. 89-19, eff. 6-3-95.)