

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 510

Short Title: Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Cotham, Hardister, Avila, and Jackson (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Judiciary Subcommittee C.

April 3, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes is amended by  
5 adding the following new section to read:

6 "**§ 131D-10.2A. Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights.**

7 It is the policy of this State that the core elements of the Foster Care Children's Bill of  
8 Rights shall include the following:

- 9 (1) The right to a safe foster home free of violence, abuse, neglect, and danger.  
10 (2) The right of first priority to be placed in a home with siblings.  
11 (3) The right to be able to communicate with the assigned social worker or case  
12 worker overseeing the child's case and have calls made to the social worker  
13 or case worker returned within a reasonable period of time.  
14 (4) The right to remain enrolled in the school the child attended before being  
15 placed in foster care, if at all possible.  
16 (5) The right of a social worker, when a child is removed from the home, to  
17 immediately begin conducting an investigation to identify and locate all  
18 grandparents, adult siblings, and other adult relatives of the child to provide  
19 those persons with specific information and explanation of various options to  
20 participate in placement of a child.  
21 (6) The right to participate in school extracurricular activities, community  
22 events, and religious practices.  
23 (7) The right to inform and communicate with the parents if the child placed in  
24 foster care receives any immunizations and if any additional immunizations  
25 are needed.  
26 (8) The right to establish a bank or savings account in accordance with State  
27 laws and federal regulations.  
28 (9) The right to obtain identification and permanent documents, including a  
29 birth certificate, social security card, and health records by the age of 16, to  
30 the extent allowed by federal and State law.  
31 (10) The right to use appropriate communication measures to maintain contact  
32 with siblings if the child placed in foster care is separated from his or her  
33 siblings.  
34 (11) The right to participate in a transition plan for those phasing out of foster  
35 care."



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**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.