

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 224

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

(On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)

CHILDRENS CODE: Provides for the continuous revision of the Children's Code

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(l), and (20),
3 616(F), 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C),
4 672.3(C)(3), 679(B) through (F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B),
5 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A), 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1,
6 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7, 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and
7 1427(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a), to enact Children's Code Articles
8 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and 1003(15), and to repeal Children's Code Articles 650,
9 697, and 707, relative to the continuous revision of the Children's Code; to provide
10 for definitions; to provide for a change in terminology; to provide with respect to
11 absent parents, children, foster caregivers, pre-adoptive parents, and relatives
12 providing care to a child; to require written findings of facts; to provide for
13 intervention; to require notice to intervenors; to provide for the exclusion of
14 intervenors; to provide for advising children and parents of their rights; and to
15 provide for related matters.

16 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

17 Section 1. Children's Code Articles 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(l), and (20), 616(F),
18 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C), 672.3(C)(3),
19 679(B) through (F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B), 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A),
20 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1, 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7,

1 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and 1427(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a) are
2 hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Articles 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and
3 1003(15) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

4 Art. 603. Definitions

5 As used in this Title:

6 * * *

7 (4)(a) "Caretaker" means any person legally obligated to provide or secure
8 adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster
9 ~~parent caregiver, an~~ operator or employee of a residential or treatment facility
10 licensed by the ~~Department of Children and Family Services~~ department or the
11 Louisiana Department of Health, or other person providing a residence for the child.

12 "Caretaker" shall not include an operator or employee of a correctional facility,
13 detention facility, nonresidential school, or unlicensed residential or child care
14 provider.

15 * * *

16 (14) "Foster care" means ~~placement in~~ that the child is in the custody of the
17 department and the department is providing temporary services including care by a
18 ~~foster family home caregiver, a relative's home~~ relative, a residential child caring
19 facility, or other living arrangement approved and supervised by the state ~~for~~
20 ~~provision of substitute care for a child in the department's custody. Such placement~~
21 ~~shall not include a detention facility.~~

22 (15) "Foster ~~parent caregiver~~" means an individual who provides ~~residential~~
23 ~~foster~~ a home and care with the approval and under the supervision of the department
24 for a child in its custody.

25 * * *

26 (17) "Mandatory reporter" is any of the following individuals:

27 * * *

28 (l) A foster ~~parent caregiver~~.

29 * * *

1 (20) "Other suitable individual" means a person, other than a relative, with
2 whom the child or parent enjoys a close, established, significant relationship, ~~yet not~~
3 ~~a blood relative~~, including a neighbor, godparent, teacher, ~~or close friend of the~~
4 parent, or similarly situated individual.

5 * * *

6 (33) "Intervention" means an action by which a relative or other suitable
7 individual may participate formally in a proceeding to facilitate permanency or to
8 present evidence that it would be in the best interest of a child for the intervenor to
9 be awarded custody of the child, visitation with the child, or another remedy.

10 * * *

11 Art. 616. Registry; screening of CASA volunteers, staff, and board members;
12 confidentiality

13 * * *

14 F. Information from investigations of reports that are inconclusive may be
15 disclosed, with the applicant's written consent, for the limited purposes of evaluating
16 the applicant to be a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, an adoptive parent, or a caregiver
17 pursuant to R.S. 46:56(F)(11).

18 * * *

19 Art. 622. Placement pending a continued custody hearing

20 * * *

21 B. Unless the best interest of the child requires a different placement, a child
22 who appears to be a child in need of care and whose immediate removal is necessary
23 shall be placed, pending a continued custody hearing, in accordance with the
24 following priorities of placement:

25 * * *

26 (4) In foster care ~~under the supervision of the department~~ until further orders
27 of the court.

28 * * *

1 Art. 623. Notice; right to be heard

2 A. The department shall give notice of any order regarding the child issued
3 in accordance with Article 619(C) or 620 to the child's parents;; the district defender
4 or other entity designated for the jurisdiction by the Indigent Parents' Representation
5 Program for representing parents;; the entity designated for the jurisdiction by the
6 Louisiana Supreme Court to provide qualified, independent counsel for the child;;
7 and other parties. The department shall also give notice regarding any child in foster
8 care, to any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, and relative providing care.
9 The department shall notify the court of each party's address and shall have a
10 continuing duty to provide current information to the court about each party's
11 whereabouts.

12 * * *

13 D. If a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
14 for the child fails to appear at a hearing, the department shall report to the court
15 whether notice was given or, if not, what diligent efforts were made to locate and
16 notify the absent person. The court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's
17 absence.

18 E. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and
19 treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or
20 relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

21 Art. 624. Continued custody hearing; continued safety plan hearing; federal Indian
22 Child Welfare Act

23 * * *

24 B. After notice to all parties, and when a child is in foster care, to any foster
25 ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, and relative providing care, and upon a
26 showing of good cause, the court may grant, deny, or condition a requested
27 continuance of the proceeding in accordance with the best ~~interests~~ interest of the
28 child. The hearing may be continued for up to three additional days. If a

1 continuance is granted, the court shall issue a written order identifying the mover and
2 reciting the particular facts justifying the continuance.

3 C.(1) If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or
4 include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and
5 the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If it
6 appears from the record that, after diligent efforts by the department, the parent
7 cannot be found or has been served a summons or notified by the department to
8 appear at the continued custody or continued safety plan hearing and fails to appear
9 at the hearing, ~~then~~ the court may permit the hearing may to be held in the parent's
10 absence.

11 (2) If a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, ~~adoptive parent~~, or
12 relative providing care for the child ~~fails to appear at the hearing, the department~~
13 ~~shall report to~~ is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the
14 minutes whether notice was given, or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the
15 hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the
16 department. If the court determines that diligent efforts were made by the
17 department to locate and notify the absent person, ~~The~~ the court may permit the
18 hearing to be held in the person's absence.

19 * * *

20 Art. 631. Authority to file petition; custody

21 * * *

22 B. At any time prior to adjudication, any person, including a relative of the
23 child, may petition the court for the provisional ~~or permanent~~ legal custody of the
24 child.

25 * * *

26 Art. 646. Answer; appearance; objection

27 A. The court shall require the parent to appear and to answer the petition at
28 any time prior to the adjudication hearing but no later than fifteen days after the
29 filing of the petition. If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of

1 fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the
2 hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly served.

3 * * *

4 C. At the appearance, the court may either convene immediately a prehearing
5 conference authorized by Article 646.1; or set a date for the conference.

6 * * *

7 F. If a child is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include
8 in the minutes whether the attorney for a child who is twelve years of age or older
9 moved to waive the presence of the child or whether the attorney for the child or the
10 court requested the presence of a child who is under the age of twelve years. If
11 presence was not waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or
12 the department shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall
13 determine on the record whether the hearing may proceed.

14 * * *

15 Art. 658.1. Motion for intervention

16 A. At any stage of a proceeding, upon written motion to intervene and after
17 a contradictory hearing, the court may allow a relative or other suitable individual
18 to intervene on behalf of himself or a party if good cause is shown that intervention
19 is in the best interest of the child and, after adjudication, will facilitate permanency
20 for the child. The court may deny the motion to intervene or set a contradictory
21 hearing with notice to all parties.

22 B.(1) An intervenor is entitled to notice of any hearing and to present
23 evidence relevant to the best interest of the child.

24 (2) Unless good cause is shown, an intervenor shall not participate in or
25 present evidence at an adjudication hearing except when called as a witness by a
26 party. An intervenor shall not inspect or copy any record of the case before an in
27 camera inspection by the court and an opportunity to be heard by the parties.

28 C. The court may exclude an intervenor from any part of a hearing as
29 necessary to protect the privacy interests of the parent or child.

1 to waive the presence or whether presence was requested. If presence was not waived
 2 or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department shall
 3 provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on the
 4 record whether the hearing may proceed. ~~If the A child is present in court, he may~~
 5 choose to testify as to his wishes, and the court shall consider ~~his~~ the child's
 6 testimony in the matter. Any testimony given by a child may be taken by a
 7 videotaped interview or by closed-circuit television, as authorized by Chapter 8 of
 8 Title III of this Code, or by an in-chambers conference attended only by the judge
 9 and court reporter and by counsel for the child, for the petitioner, and for the parents.

10 D. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at the disposition
 11 hearing to any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
 12 for the child.

13 E. If a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
 14 for the child ~~fails to appear at the disposition hearing, the department shall report to~~
 15 is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes
 16 whether notice was given, or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing
 17 and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the
 18 court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and
 19 notify the absent person, ~~The~~ the court may permit the hearing to be held in the
 20 person's absence.

21 F. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and
 22 treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or
 23 relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

24 * * *

25 Art. 690. Case review report purpose; contents

26 * * *

27 B. The case review report shall address the following:

28 * * *

1 (3) The extent of progress ~~which~~ that has been made toward alleviating or
2 mitigating the causes necessitating ~~placement in~~ foster care.

3 * * *

4 Art. 694. Notice; absent parents

5 A. If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or
6 include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and
7 the right to attend and be heard was properly served. The court shall permit a case
8 review hearing to be held in the absence of a parent if it is established on the record
9 that the parent was served but is not in attendance or that efforts to serve the parent
10 have been unsuccessful.

11 * * *

12 Art. 695. Notice; foster ~~parents~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parents, relatives providing
13 care; right to be heard

14 A. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at each case review
15 hearing to any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
16 for the child.

17 * * *

18 C. If a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
19 for the child ~~fails to appear at a case review hearing, the department shall report to~~
20 is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes
21 whether notice was given or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing
22 and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the
23 court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and
24 notify the absent person, ~~The~~ the court may permit the hearing to be held in the
25 person's absence.

26 D. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and
27 treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or
28 relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

1 Art. 696. Rights of parties

2 * * *

3 B. A child twelve years of age or older shall be present in court unless ~~his~~
4 the child's presence is waived by the court upon motion of the child's counsel. A
5 child below the age of twelve years shall be present in court upon the request of
6 counsel for the child or the court. If a child is absent, the court shall make written
7 findings of fact or include in the minutes whether the attorney for the child moved
8 to waive the presence or whether presence was requested. If presence was not
9 waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department
10 shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on
11 the record whether the hearing may proceed. ~~If the~~ A child is present in court, he
12 may choose to testify as to his wishes, and the court shall consider ~~his~~ the child's
13 testimony in the matter. Any testimony given by a child may be taken by a
14 videotaped interview or by closed-circuit television, as authorized by Chapter 8 of
15 Title III of this Code, or by an in-chambers conference attended only by the judge
16 and court reporter and by counsel for the child, for the petitioner, and for the parents.

17 * * *

18 Art. 702. Permanency hearing

19 * * *

20 D.

21 * * *

22 (2)

23 * * *

24 (c) For the purposes of Subsubparagraph (a) of this Subparagraph, a foster
25 ~~parent~~ caregiver, relative, or other suitable individual with whom a child under the
26 age of six has resided continuously for nine months or more is a person who has a
27 significant relationship with the child. Nothing in this Subparagraph shall be
28 construed to interfere with any rights afforded to biological parents.

29 * * *

1 Art. 704. Notice; absent parents

2 A. If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or
3 include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and
4 the right to attend and be heard was properly served. The court shall permit a
5 permanency hearing to be held in the absence of a parent if it is established on the
6 record that the parent was served but is not in attendance or that efforts to serve the
7 parent have been unsuccessful.

8 * * *

9 Art. 705. Notice; right to be heard

10 A. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at each
11 permanency hearing to any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative
12 providing care for the child.

13 * * *

14 C. If a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care
15 for the child ~~fails to appear at a permanency hearing, the department shall report to~~
16 is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes
17 whether notice was given or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing
18 and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the
19 court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and
20 notify the absent person, ~~The~~ the court may permit the hearing to be held in the
21 person's absence.

22 D. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and
23 treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or
24 relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

25 Art. 706. Rights of parties

26 * * *

27 B. A child twelve years of age or older shall be present in court unless ~~his~~
28 the child's presence is waived by the court upon motion of the child's counsel. A
29 child below the age of twelve years shall be present in court upon the request of

- 1 ~~(4) The right to an adjudication hearing.~~
- 2 ~~(5) The right to retain and be represented by an attorney.~~
- 3 (6) ~~The nature of Families in Need of Services proceedings as set forth in~~
4 ~~Article 792 and the confidentiality of Families in Need of Services records as set~~
5 ~~forth~~ provided in Article 793.
- 6 (7) The right to have notice of and attend all hearings.
- 7 (8) The right to be free from discrimination based on race, religion,
8 disability, national origin, and sex.
- 9 (9) The right to be provided qualified interpretation, translation, and
10 language assistance services.
- 11 (10) The right to be provided reasonable accommodations for any disability.
- 12 (11) The right of the child to an adjudication hearing.
- 13 (12) The right of the child to have regular and meaningful communication
14 with the child's attorney in a way that is understandable to the child.
- 15 (13) The right of the child to have the child's attorney present the child's
16 case, including presenting the child's wishes.
- 17 (14) The right of the child to testify as to the child's wishes.
- 18 (15) The right of the parent to retain and be represented by an independent
19 and qualified attorney who shall have duties of loyalty, confidentiality, advocacy,
20 and competent representation.
- 21 B. If a petition seeking a formal adjudication is filed, the court shall appoint
22 independent legal counsel for the child; or refer the child for representation by the
23 district public defender. Neither the child nor anyone purporting to act on his behalf
24 of the child may be permitted to waive this right. If the court finds that the parents
25 of the child are financially able, it may order the parents to pay some or all of the
26 costs of the child's representation.
- 27 C. If a petition seeking a formal adjudication is filed, the court shall also
28 advise the child and parent of his the privilege against self-incrimination.

1 Art. 1269.1. Continuing contact agreements; voluntary

2 Agreements for continuing contact by certain biological relatives or foster
3 ~~parents~~ caregivers with an adopted child after an adoption do not violate any public
4 policy of this state, provided that the adopting parents and biological relative or
5 foster ~~parent~~ caregiver voluntarily execute the agreement in conformity with the
6 requirements of this Chapter.

7 Art. 1269.2. Continuing post-adoption contact; ~~foster child adoptions~~ adoption of
8 child in foster care

9 * * *

10 B. If there is no parental relationship that meets the requirements of
11 Paragraph A of this Article, the court may approve an agreement, executed in
12 conformity with the requirements of this Chapter, that provides for continuing
13 contact between the child to be adopted and any ~~other~~ relative or foster ~~parent~~
14 caregiver whose relationship with the child meets those requirements.

15 C. When adoption is approved by the court as the permanent plan for the
16 child, the department shall inform any parent, grandparent, sibling, ~~or any other~~
17 relative, or foster ~~parent~~ caregiver who meets the requirements of Paragraph A or B
18 of this Article of the possibility of post-adoption contact with the child upon
19 agreement with the adoptive parents in accordance with the provisions of this
20 Chapter.

21 * * *

22 Art. 1269.7. Agreements confected after final decree

23 The adoptive parent and any relative or foster ~~parent~~ caregiver who may be
24 permitted continuing contact ~~by~~ in accordance with Article 1269.2(B) may enter into
25 an agreement regarding communication or contact after entry of a final decree of
26 adoption. ~~Any such~~ The agreement shall be enforceable only if filed with the court
27 and approved in accordance with this Chapter.

28 * * *

1 Art. 1279.6. Educational opportunities and assistance

2 A.(1) A child ~~who is~~ in foster care ~~pursuant to placement through the~~
3 ~~department~~ shall be allowed to remain enrolled in the public school in which the
4 child was enrolled at the time ~~he~~ the child entered foster care for the duration of the
5 child's stay in the custody of the state or until ~~he~~ the child completes the highest
6 grade offered at the school, if the department determines that remaining in ~~such~~ that
7 school is in the best interest of the child. Transportation of the child shall be
8 provided pursuant to R.S. 17:238(C).

9 * * *

10 B. When a child is ~~in the custody of the department and is placed with a~~
11 ~~foster parents~~ caregiver who ~~have~~ has other children living in the home who already
12 attend a nonpublic or parochial school, the ~~foster~~ child may attend the same
13 nonpublic or parochial school if the department finds that it is in the best interest of
14 the child; and if the child meets the admission requirements of the nonpublic or
15 parochial school. The department shall not be directly responsible for paying for the
16 expenses associated with such education.

17 C. When a child is ~~in the custody of the department and is placed with a~~
18 ~~foster parents~~ caregiver who ~~have~~ has other children in the home who are
19 participants in an approved home study program; pursuant to R.S. 17:236.1, the
20 department may approve the placement of the ~~foster~~ child in an approved home study
21 program if the department finds that it is in the best interest of the child. Home study
22 programs approved by the Department of Education to educate ~~foster~~ children in
23 foster care shall offer a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered
24 by public schools at the same grade level; pursuant to R.S. 17:236.1(C)(1).
25 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of
26 Education shall provide the department, upon request, verification that a home study
27 program in which a ~~foster~~ child in foster care is participating has been approved
28 pursuant to R.S. 17:236. The ~~foster parent~~ caregiver shall provide the department
29 appropriate documentation, including but not limited to copies of standardized tests,

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 to substantiate that the child is progressing on grade level and at a rate equal to one
2 grade level for each year in the program.

3 * * *

4 Art. 1404. Definitions

5 As used in this Title:

6 (1) "Caretaker" means any person legally obligated to provide or secure
7 adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster
8 ~~home parent~~ caregiver, or other person providing a residence for the child.

9 * * *

10 Art. 1427. Authority to transport and detain

11 * * *

12 C.(1) In addition to other persons authorized by this Article to transport to
13 a treatment facility a child in whose name an emergency certificate has been issued,
14 any of the following persons may also accompany the child during ~~such~~
15 transportation:

16 (a) A parent, including a foster ~~parent~~ caregiver, subject to the conditions of
17 Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. Children's Code Articles 650, 697, and 707 are hereby repealed in their
20 entirety.

21 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
22 alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in Children's Code Articles 603 and 1003
23 and to correct any cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs, if necessary, consistent
24 with the provisions of this Act.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 224 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides continuous revisions to the Children's Code with respect to children in foster care.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 603) defines "caretaker", "foster care", "foster parent", "mandatory reporter", and "other suitable individual".

Proposed law retains present law, changes the term "foster parent" to "foster caregiver", and modernizes terminology to clarify intent. Proposed law also defines "intervention".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 616) provides for the child abuse registry.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 622) provides for the placement of children pending a continued custody hearing.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 623) provides for notice of any instanter orders regarding children.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 624) provides for continued custody and safety plan hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided when a parent, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent.

Proposed law modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 631) provides for petitions for a child in need of care. Authorizes a person to petition for permanent custody prior to adjudication.

Proposed law retains present law but removes authorization for a person to petition the court for permanent custody prior to adjudication.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 646) provides relative to answers to petitions prior to an adjudication hearing.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly served or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent or child is absent and authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 650) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in child in need of care proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 658.1). Provides for intervention by a relative or other suitable individual in child in need of care proceedings if it is in the best interest of the child.

Proposed law further provides for notice to intervenors. Authorizes the court to exclude intervenors from the adjudication hearing and provides for the termination of the intervention.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 672.3) requires a notice to relatives to describe the process for becoming a licensed foster home.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 679) provides for notice and presence at disposition hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 690) provides the requirements for a case review report.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 694, 695, and 696) provides for notice and presence at case review hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 697) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in case review proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 658.1).

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 702) requires the court to consider a child's need for continuing contact with any person with whom the child has an established and significant relationship.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 704, 705, and 706) provides for notice and presence at permanency hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 707) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in permanency review proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 658.1).

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 740) requires the court to advise parents and children of certain rights during a families in need of services proceeding.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the court to advise that the child and parents are parties to the proceeding, of the consequences of the proceeding, the right to receive notice of all hearings, the right to testify, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to an interpreter, and the right to reasonable accommodations for any disability.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1003) defines certain terms. Proposed law retains present law and adds the definition of "foster care".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1004) provides for the petition to terminate parental rights.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1112) provides for the private surrender of a child in the custody of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 1269.1, 1269.2, and 1269.7) provides for continuing contact agreements between relatives and foster parents.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1279.6) provides for the education of children in foster care.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1404) defines certain terms. Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology for the definition of "caretaker".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1427) provides for the transport of children to treatment facilities.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(l), and (20), 616(F), 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C), 672.3(C)(3), 679(B)-(F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B), 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A), 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1, 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7, 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and 1427(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (a); Adds Ch.C. Arts. 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and 1003(15); Repeals Ch.C. Arts. 650, 697, and 707)