

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
October 25, 2011**

PI-11-20

TO: Directors, County Social Service Boards
Regional Supervisors
Division of Juvenile Services
Tribal Social Services

FROM: Tara Muhlhauser, Director, Children & Family Services

SUBJECT: Notice and Participation in Court Hearings

PROGRAMS: Family Foster Care Licensing Chapter, 622-05-40-40

EFFECTIVE: **Immediately**

RETENTION: Until Manualized

The Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006 requires that foster parents of a child and any pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child receive timely notice of a hearing and a right to be heard in any proceeding held with respect to the child, during the time the child is in the care of such foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, or relative caregiver.

The custodial agency must notify the foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, or relative caregivers in writing. A copy of the written notification should be kept in the child's case file. Email or letter notice constitutes written notice, if there is documentation of the letter or email.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.