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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1156** Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY FOLMER, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for  
3 notice and hearing and for disposition of dependent child.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Sections 6336.1 and 6351(e)(1) of Title 42 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

8 § 6336.1. Notice and hearing.

9 The court shall direct the county agency or juvenile  
10 probation department to provide the child's foster parent,  
11 preadoptive parent or relative providing care for the child with  
12 timely notice of the hearing. The court shall provide the  
13 child's foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative providing  
14 care for the child the [opportunity] right to be heard at any  
15 hearing under this chapter. Unless a foster parent, preadoptive  
16 parent or relative providing care for a child has been awarded  
17 legal custody pursuant to section 6357 (relating to rights and  
18 duties of legal custodian), nothing in this section shall give

1 the foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative providing care  
2 for the child legal standing in the matter being heard by the  
3 court.

4 § 6351. Disposition of dependent child.

5 \* \* \*

6 (e) Permanency hearings.--

7 (1) The court shall conduct a permanency hearing for the  
8 purpose of determining or reviewing the permanency plan of  
9 the child, the date by which the goal of permanency for the  
10 child might be achieved and whether placement continues to be  
11 best suited to the safety, protection and physical, mental  
12 and moral welfare of the child. In any permanency hearing  
13 held with respect to the child, the court shall consult with  
14 the child regarding the child's permanency plan in a manner  
15 appropriate to the child's age and maturity. If the court  
16 does not consult personally with the child, the court shall  
17 ensure that the views of the child regarding the permanency  
18 plan have been ascertained to the fullest extent possible and  
19 communicated to the court by the guardian ad litem under  
20 section 6311 (relating to guardian ad litem for child in  
21 court proceedings) or, as appropriate to the circumstances of  
22 the case by the child's counsel, the court-appointed special  
23 advocate or other person as designated by the court.

24 \* \* \*

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.