

JUDICIAL CODE (42 PA.C.S.) - NOTICE AND HEARING AND DISPOSITION OF
DEPENDENT CHILD

Act of Dec. 18, 2007, P.L. 484, No. 76

Cl. 42

Session of 2007

No. 2007-76

SB 1156

AN ACT

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

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

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

§ 6336.1. Notice and hearing.

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

§ 6351. Disposition of dependent child.

* * *

(e) Permanency hearings.--

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

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Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2008, or immediately, whichever is later.

APPROVED--The 18th day of December, A. D. 2007.

EDWARD G. RENDELL