

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 14-15.1-04 and 14-15.1-05 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to required reports of a child placing agency.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-15.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **14-15.1-04. Report of child-placing agency.**

7 1. Before a hearing under this chapter, the report of a child-placing agency must be filed  
8 with the court. The child-placing agency shall serve a copy of the report upon the birth  
9 parent, the identified adoptive parent, the guardian ad litem, and the department at  
10 least seven days before the hearing. ~~Except as provided in subsection 2, the~~The  
11 report must include:

12 a. ~~A recommendation as to whether the home of the identified adoptive parent is a~~  
13 ~~suitable home for the placement of the child.~~

14 b. ~~A preplacement adoption assessment indicating how the identified adoptive~~  
15 ~~parent's emotional maturity, finances, health, relationships, criminal history~~  
16 ~~record, and any other relevant factors may affect the identified adoptive parent's~~  
17 ~~ability to accept, care for, and provide the child with an adequate environment in~~  
18 ~~which to mature.~~

19 c. ~~The medical and social history of the birth parent, including an assessment~~  
20 ~~regarding the birth parent's understanding and acceptance of the action.~~

21 d. ~~If the child has been born before the filing of the report, a medical and~~  
22 ~~developmental history of the child.~~

23 2. ~~If the identified adoptive parent is a relative of the child, the report of a child-placing~~  
24 ~~agency must include:~~

- 1     ~~a~~.1. An assessment and recommendation of the criminal history record of the identified  
2             adoptive parent and any adult living in the home of the adoptive parent.
- 3     ~~b~~.2. Written credible character statements from three adult witnesses. Each statement  
4             must be acknowledged before a notary public and include:
- 5         ~~(1)~~a. The relationship of the witness to the identified parent;
- 6         ~~(2)~~b. The relationship, love, and other emotional ties existing between the child and  
7             the identified adoptive parent;
- 8         ~~(3)~~c. The emotional maturity and moral character of the identified adoptive parent;
- 9         ~~(4)~~d. The sufficiency and stability of the identified adoptive parent's home environment;
- 10        ~~(5)~~e. The ability of the identified adoptive parent to provide food, clothing, shelter, and  
11            medical care for the child; and
- 12        ~~(6)~~f. The mental and physical health of the identified adoptive parent, if known.
- 13     ~~e~~.3. The medical and social history of the birth parent, including an assessment regarding  
14            the birth parent's understanding and acceptance of the action.

15            **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-15.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17            **14-15.1-05. Report of agreements and disbursements.**

18            Prior to a hearing under this chapter, a report of agreements and disbursements must be  
19 filed with the court and served upon the department. The report must include the following:

- 20            1. A statement of all agreements, whether oral or written, entered into between any of the  
21               parties to an action under this chapter, which relate in any way to the future conduct of  
22               any party with respect to the child. If oral agreements are reported, the substance of  
23               such agreements must be set forth in the report and a copy of the report must be  
24               served on all parties to the oral agreement. Copies of all written agreements must be  
25               attached to the report.
- 26            2. A full accounting in a manner acceptable to the court of all disbursements of anything  
27               of value made or agreed to be made by or on behalf of the identified adoptive parent  
28               in connection with proceedings under this chapter. The report must show any  
29               expenses incurred in connection with:
- 30               a. The birth of the child.
- 31               b. Placement of the child with the identified adoptive parent.

- 1           c.    Medical or hospital care received by the birth parent or by the child prior to or
- 2                 after the child's birth.
- 3           d.    Services relating to the petition for relinquishment or the placement of the child
- 4                 which were received by or on behalf of a birth parent, identified adoptive parent,
- 5                 or any other person.
- 6        ~~3.    A statement of each person furnishing information contained in the report by which~~
- 7           ~~that person attests to the correctness and truthfulness of the information furnished.~~