



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZACHARY PARKER

Ward 5 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

October 4, 2025

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today I am introducing the Promoting Parental Engagement at DYRS Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This legislation is co-introduced by Councilmembers Janeese Lewis-George, Charles Allen, Robert White, Jr., and Brooke Pinto.

This legislation aims to afford parents a greater opportunity to participate in the rehabilitation of children committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) by encouraging adherence to the provisions of the Recidivism Reduction, Oversight, and Accountability for DYRS Act of 2024 (ROAD Act).

At present, the ROAD Act requires a predisposition meeting between parents and children recommended for commitment at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). This predisposition meeting is the basis for the development of an individualized rehabilitation plan for each child and thus serves as a vital interface between DYRS and the family of the child placed in its care. It is an opportunity for families to become informed about their children's physical and mental health and contribute to their children's treatment process, including providing recommendations based on parental knowledge and experience. This bill is intended to ensure all necessary parties attend this essential meeting and collaborate on a productive action plan for DYRS-committed children. The bill also requires DYRS to reach out to parents after this meeting in regular intervals to ensure that parents are included in all phases of their children's rehabilitation.

In an effort to promote transparency and boost accountability, this bill requires:

- DYRS to keep electronic records of all reasonable attempts to contact parents, guardians, or custodians and, if requested, provide these records to the Chair of the Council committee charged with DYRS oversight; and,

- DYRS to make an effort to contact the parent, custodian, or guardian of each child at least every six months after the predisposition meeting to update them on their child's rehabilitation over the course of their commitment.

This legislation conforms with the spirit of the ROAD Act to empower parents to play a role in their children's rehabilitation and non-recidivism. It will encourage the Department to make every reasonable effort to organize this essential predisposition meeting appropriately and continue to remain in contact with families to integrate them in their children's rehabilitative process.

I look forward to working with colleagues to promote this legislation that will help achieve the primary goals of the ROAD Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Director, Thomas Franco, at tfranco@dccouncil.gov or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at abailey@dccouncil.gov with any questions or concerns.

Signed,



Zachary Parker
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia

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4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George



Councilmember Zachary Parker

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9 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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15 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

16 A BILL

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20 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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25 To amend Chapter 23 of Title 16 of the Official Code of the District of Columbia to require
26 DYRS to maintain an electronic record of its attempts to contact the appropriate parties,
27 including parents and guardians, prior to a predisposition meeting and to make this log
28 available to the Chair of the Council committee with oversight of the DYRS.

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30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
31 act may be cited as the “Promoting Parental Engagement at DYRS Amendment Act of 2025”.

32 Sec. 2. Chapter 23 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as
33 follows:

34 “(a) Section 16-2319(d)(1)(B) is amended to read as follows:

35 “(B) Prior to the predisposition hearing meeting required by subparagraph (C) of this
36 paragraph, make reasonable efforts to notify the child, the child’s attorney, the child’s parent,
37 guardian, or custodian, a Department representative, a Court Social Services representative, a

38 Child and Family Services Agency representative, if relevant, and any other individual requested
39 by the Department, of the date, time, and location of the predisposition meeting. Following the
40 date of this scheduled predisposition meeting, the Department shall make a recurring effort at
41 least every six (6) months to contact the child's parent, guardian, or custodian and inform them
42 of the child's progress on their individualized rehabilitation plan. The Department shall keep an
43 electronic log of all reasonable efforts made to contact the child's parent, guardian, or custodian
44 and shall provide this electronic log to the Chair of the Council committee with oversight of the
45 Department upon request.”.

46 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

47 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
48 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
49 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

50 Sec. 4. Effective date.

51 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
52 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
53 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
54 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
55 Columbia Register.