



CHAPTER 50A
ARTICLE 4 - UNIFORM CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

N.C.G.S. § 50A-419.

Warrant to take physical custody of child.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:29 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT ed09c3a94d51afc0afdf2988 - 1845ce730abe44560c2d94f8 - 06e20c68d0096af5
--	---	---	--

§ 50A-419(a) If a petition under this Article contains allegations, and the court finds, that there is a credible risk that the child is imminently likely to be wrongfully removed, the court may issue an ex parte warrant to take physical custody of the child.

§ 50A-419(b) The respondent on a petition under subsection (a) of this section must be afforded an opportunity to be heard at the earliest possible time after the ex parte warrant is executed, but not later than the end of the next day that the district court is in session unless a hearing on that date is impossible. In that event, the court must hold the hearing on the first possible day that the district court is in session.

§ 50A-419(c) An ex parte warrant under subsection (a) of this section to take physical custody of a child must do all of the following:

- (1) Recite the facts upon which a determination of a credible risk of imminent wrongful removal of the child is based.
- (2) Authorize law enforcement officers to take physical custody of the child without delay.
- (3) State the date and time for the hearing on the petition.
- (4) Provide for the safe interim placement of the child pending further order of the court.

§ 50A-419(d) If feasible, before issuing a warrant and before determining the placement of the child after the warrant is executed, the court may order a search of the relevant databases of the National Crime Information Center system and similar databases of this State

or another state to determine if either the petitioner or respondent has a history of domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse or neglect.

§ 50A-419(e) The petition and warrant must be served on the respondent when, or as soon as possible after, the child is taken into physical custody.

§ 50A-419(f) A warrant to take physical custody of a child, issued by this State or another state, is enforceable throughout this State. If the court finds that a less intrusive remedy will not be effective, it may authorize law enforcement officers to enter private property to take physical custody of the child, which may include forcible entry at any hour.

§ 50A-419(g) If the court finds, after a hearing, that a petitioner sought an ex parte warrant under subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of harassment or in bad faith, the court may award the respondent reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses.

§ 50A-419(h) This Article does not affect the availability of relief allowed under other State law. (2025-25, s. 45(b).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50A-419 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50A-419(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

This document reproduces the text of one section of the General Statutes of North Carolina from a source file whose SHA-256 digest is printed on every page. The digest fixes the bytes this export was made from; if the State's file changes, the digest will not match.

The text of the section is unaltered. Subsection designators have been moved from the run of text into the margin. The amendment history and the table of authorities are derived from the section by mechanical extraction — they add no characterization of the law.

This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

SET IN SPECTRAL AND ARCHIVO
NORTH CAROLINA LAW — STATUTE EXPORT, FORMAT V1



UNOFFICIAL REPRODUCTION — OFFICIAL TEXT IS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE

SHA-256 ed09c3a9...096af5