



CHAPTER 7B
ARTICLE 11 - TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

N.C.G.S. § 7B-1111.

Grounds for terminating parental rights.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2023-14, s. 6.2(g) — twenty-sixth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:50 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 407678bdc14adcb8b356c8ff - 0b1c0667e8338931d7bdaf29 - 4903dfb073949241
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- § 7B-1111(a) The court may terminate the parental rights upon a finding of one or more of the following:
- (1) The parent has abused or neglected the juvenile. The juvenile shall be deemed to be abused or neglected if the court finds the juvenile to be an abused juvenile within the meaning of G.S. 7B-101 or a neglected juvenile within the meaning of G.S. 7B-101.
 - (2) The parent has willfully left the juvenile in foster care or placement outside the home for more than 12 months without showing to the satisfaction of the court that reasonable progress under the circumstances has been made in correcting those conditions which led to the removal of the juvenile. No parental rights, however, shall be terminated for the sole reason that the parents are unable to care for the juvenile on account of their poverty.
 - (3) The juvenile has been placed in the custody of a county department of social services, a licensed child-placing agency, a child-caring institution, or a foster home, and the parent has for a continuous period of six months immediately preceding the filing of the petition or motion willfully failed to pay a reasonable portion of the cost of care for the juvenile although physically and financially able to do so.

- (4) One parent has been awarded custody of the juvenile by judicial decree or has custody by agreement of the parents, and the other parent whose parental rights are sought to be terminated has for a period of one year or more next preceding the filing of the petition or motion willfully failed without justification to pay for the care, support, and education of the juvenile, as required by the decree or custody agreement.
- (5) The father of a juvenile born out of wedlock has not, prior to the filing of a petition or motion to terminate parental rights, done any of the following:
 - a. Filed an affidavit of paternity in a central registry maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services. The petitioner or movant shall inquire of the Department of Health and Human Services as to whether such an affidavit has been so filed and the Department's certified reply shall be submitted to and considered by the court.
 - b. Legitimated the juvenile pursuant to provisions of G.S. 49-10, G.S. 49-12.1, or filed a petition for this specific purpose.
 - c. Legitimated the juvenile by marriage to the mother of the juvenile.
 - d. Provided substantial financial support or consistent care with respect to the juvenile and mother.
 - e. Established paternity through G.S. 49-14, 110-132, 130A-101, 130A-118, or other judicial proceeding.
- (6) That the parent is incapable of providing for the proper care and supervision of the juvenile, such that the juvenile is a dependent juvenile within the meaning of G.S. 7B-101, and that there is a reasonable probability that the incapability will continue for the foreseeable future. Incapability under this subdivision may be the result of substance abuse, intellectual disability, mental illness, organic brain syndrome, or any other cause or condition that renders the parent unable or unavailable to parent the juvenile and the parent lacks an appropriate alternative child care arrangement.
- (7) The parent has willfully abandoned the juvenile for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of the petition or motion, or the parent has voluntarily abandoned an infant as a safely surrendered infant pursuant to Article 5A of this Subchapter for at least 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the filing of the petition or motion.

- (8) The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent or other child residing in the home; has aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of the child, another child of the parent, or other child residing in the home; has committed a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child, another child of the parent, or other child residing in the home; or has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent of the child. The petitioner has the burden of proving any of these offenses in the termination of parental rights hearing by (i) proving the elements of the offense or (ii) offering proof that a court of competent jurisdiction has convicted the parent of the offense, whether or not the conviction was by way of a jury verdict or any kind of plea. If the parent has committed the murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent of the child, the court shall consider whether the murder or voluntary manslaughter was committed in self-defense or in the defense of others, or whether there was substantial evidence of other justification.
- (9) The parental rights of the parent with respect to another child of the parent have been terminated involuntarily by a court of competent jurisdiction and the parent lacks the ability or willingness to establish a safe home. This ground shall not apply to a parent whose parental rights were terminated as a result of the other child being a safely surrendered infant.
- (10) Where the juvenile has been relinquished to a county department of social services or a licensed child-placing agency for the purpose of adoption or placed with a prospective adoptive parent for adoption; the consent or relinquishment to adoption by the parent has become irrevocable except upon a showing of fraud, duress, or other circumstance as set forth in G.S. 48-3-609 or G.S. 48-3-707; termination of parental rights is a condition precedent to adoption in the jurisdiction where the adoption proceeding is to be filed; and the parent does not contest the termination of parental rights.
- (11) The parent has been convicted of a sexually related offense under Chapter 14 of the General Statutes that resulted in the conception of the juvenile.

§ 7B-1111(b) The burden in these proceedings is on the petitioner or movant to prove the facts justifying the termination by clear and convincing evidence.

APPARATUS I
26 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1977	c. 879, s. 8	ENACTED
02	1979	c. 669, s. 2	AMENDED
03	1979	2nd Sess., c. 1088, s. 2	AMENDED
04	1979	c. 1206, s. 2	AMENDED
05	1983	c. 89, s. 2	AMENDED
06	1983	c. 512	AMENDED
07	1985	c. 758, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
08	1985	c. 784	AMENDED
09	1985	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 941, s. 1	AMENDED
10	1997	S.L. 1997-390, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
11	1997	S.L. 1997-443, s. 11A.118(a)	AMENDED
12	1998	S.L. 1998-202, s. 6	AMENDED
13	1998	S.L. 1998-229, ss. 11, 28	AMENDED
14	1999	S.L. 1999-456, s. 60	AMENDED
15	2000	S.L. 2000-183, s. 11	AMENDED
16	2001	S.L. 2001-208, s. 6	AMENDED
17	2001	S.L. 2001-291, s. 3	AMENDED
18	2001	S.L. 2001-487, s. 101	AMENDED
19	2003	S.L. 2003-140, s. 3	AMENDED
20	2005	S.L. 2005-146, s. 1	AMENDED
21	2007	S.L. 2007-151, s. 1	AMENDED
22	2007	S.L. 2007-484, s. 26(a)	AMENDED
23	2012	S.L. 2012-40, s. 1	AMENDED

24	2013	S.L. 2013-129, s. 35	AMENDED
25	2018	S.L. 2018-47, s. 2	AMENDED
26	2023	S.L. 2023-14, s. 6.2(g)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 7B-101	(a)(1)	"abused juvenile within the meaning of"
G.S. 49-10	(a)	"the juvenile pursuant to provisions of"
G.S. 49-12.1	(a)	"pursuant to provisions of G.S. 49-10,"
G.S. 49-14	(a)	"e. Established paternity through"
G.S. 48-3	(a)(10)	"other circumstance as set forth in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-1111 (2023).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-1111(a) (2023).

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

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1977, c. 879, s. 8; 1979, c. 669, s. 2; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1088, s. 2; c. 1206, s. 2; 1983, c. 89, s. 2; c. 512; 1985, c. 758, ss. 2, 3; c. 784; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 941, s. 1; 1997-390, ss. 1, 2; 1997-443, s. 11A.118(a); 1998-202, s. 6; 1998-229, ss. 11, 28; 1999-456, s. 60; 2000-183, s. 11; 2001-208, s. 6; 2001-291, s. 3; 2001-487, s. 101; 2003-140, s. 3; 2005-146, s. 1; 2007-151, s. 1; 2007-484, s. 26(a); 2012-40, s. 1; 2013-129, s. 35; 2018-47, s. 2; 2023-14, s. 6.2(g).)

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