



CHAPTER 7B
ARTICLE 4 - VENUE; PETITIONS

N.C.G.S. § 7B-403.

Receipt of reports; filing of petition.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2025-16, ss. 1.3(f), 1.10(f) — fifth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:30 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT c2a84352ec8318e77d983176 - 3b016f6dbc10ef9bceb6d95c - 5763bbfccf9cbe7e
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§ 7B-403(a) (Effective until April 1, 2026 - see note) All reports concerning a juvenile alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent shall be referred to the director of the department of social services for screening. Thereafter, if it is determined by the director that a report should be filed as a petition, the petition shall be drawn by the director, verified before an official authorized to administer oaths, and filed by the clerk, recording the date of filing.

§ 7B-403(a) (Effective April 1, 2026 - see note) All reports concerning a juvenile alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent shall be referred to the director of the department of social services for screening. Thereafter, if it is determined by the director that a report should be filed as a petition, the petition shall be reviewed by the legal counsel for the department, signed by the director, and verified before an official authorized to administer oaths, and filed by the clerk, recording the date of filing. If the legal counsel for the department has not also signed the petition, the director shall attest that the petition has been reviewed by the legal counsel for the department.

§ 7B-403(b) A decision of the director of social services not to file a report as a petition shall be reviewed by the prosecutor or Division pursuant to G.S. 7B-306.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
5 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.

1979		2002		2025	
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR		DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT			
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER		
01	1979	c. 815, s. 1	ENACTED		
02	1981	c. 469, ss. 10, 11	AMENDED		
03	1998	S.L. 1998-202, s. 6	AMENDED		
04	1999	S.L. 1999-456, s. 60	AMENDED		
05	2025	S.L. 2025-16, ss. 1.3(f), 1.10(f)	AMENDED		

APPARATUS II

1 AUTHORITY

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-306	(b)	"the prosecutor or Division pursuant to"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-403 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-403(a) (2025).

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

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

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1979, c. 815, s. 1; 1981, c. 469, ss. 10, 11; 1998-202, s. 6; 1999-456, s. 60; 2025-16, ss. 1.3(f), 1.10(f).)

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