



CHAPTER 7B
ARTICLE 5 - TEMPORARY CUSTODY; NONSECURE CUSTODY; CUSTODY HEARINGS

N.C.G.S. § 7B-502.

Authority to issue custody orders;
delegation.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2025-16, s. 1.6(a) — seventh act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 02:06 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 02549c6fc4ecbdcc63d97ae2 - 3c5df01dd259fb53cd7495be - 3adeb435591a8ad5
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§ 7B-502(a) In the case of any juvenile alleged to be within the jurisdiction of the court, the court may order that the juvenile be placed in nonsecure custody pursuant to criteria set out in G.S. 7B-503 when custody of the juvenile is necessary. The order for nonsecure custody may be entered ex parte. Unless the petition is being f -
iled pursuant to G.S. 7B-404, telephonic communication that the department will be seeking nonsecure custody shall be given to counsel, or if unavailable, to a partner or employee at the attorney's office when any of the following occur:

- (1) The department has received written notification that a respondent has counsel for the juvenile matter.
- (2) The respondent is represented by counsel in a juvenile proceeding within the same county involving another juvenile of the respondent.

Notice is not required to provisional counsel appointed pursuant to G.S. 7B-602.

§ 7B-502(b) Any district court judge shall have the authority to issue nonsecure custody orders pursuant to G.S. 7B-503, once the action is commenced with the filing of a juvenile petition under G.S. 7B-405. The chief district court judge may delegate the court's authority to any magistrate by administrative order which shall be filed in the office of the clerk of superior court. Each county shall have available at all times a judge or delegated magistrate with whom the department may request nonsecure custody of a juvenile or juveniles.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
7 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. 425	AMENDED
03	1983	c. 590, s. 1	AMENDED
04	1998	S.L. 1998-202, s. 6	AMENDED
05	1999	S.L. 1999-456, s. 60	AMENDED
06	2015	S.L. 2015-136, s. 3	AMENDED
07	2025	S.L. 2025-16, s. 1.6(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
4 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-503	(a)	"pursuant to criteria set out in"
G.S. 7B-404	(a)	"petition is being filed pursuant to"
G.S. 7B-602	(a)	"to provisional counsel appointed pursuant to"
G.S. 7B-405	(b)	"filing of a juvenile petition under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-502 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-502(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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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.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1979, c. 815, s. 1; 1981, c. 425; 1983, c. 590, s. 1; 1998-202, s. 6; 1999-456, s. 60; 2015-136, s. 3; 2025-16, s. 1.6(a).)

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