



CHAPTER 7B

ARTICLE 5B - SAFE BABIES COURT

N.C.G.S. § 7B-536.

Safe babies court records and information.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	No amendment history on record	21 September 2026, 04:47 UTC	dc8bdeb6acc5c8f8697ce8fe - 868902658f8681bc9cea1627 - e8697993aee7fcc9

§ 7B-536(a)

Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) AOC Director. - The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- (2) Coordinators. - Judicial branch staff assigned to facilitate safe babies court by coordinating family team meetings with participants and service providers, setting regular judicial status conferences for safe babies court, documenting information related to safe babies court and its participants, maintaining data and records to demonstrate program outcomes, administration of safe babies court, data analysis, and other related duties.
- (3) De-identified record. - A record with all of the following types of information omitted, removed, or redacted:
 - a.The names, addresses, dates of birth, and employer name and address of any parties to the juvenile action, including any juvenile alleged to be within the jurisdiction of the court.
 - b.The names and addresses of service providers for any member of the family or the juvenile's placement provider.
 - c.The names and addresses of the juvenile placement.
 - d.Identifying information as defined in subdivisions (1) through (9) and (11) through (14) of G.S. 14-113.20(b).
- (4) Participant. - A party to a juvenile proceeding who is participating in safe babies court.

- (5) Party. - As determined by G.S. 7B-401.1.
- (6) Record. - All recorded information, data, and documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by safe babies court coordinators that is not filed in the juvenile court record in the custody of the clerk of superior court.
- (7) Safe babies court. - The innovative court program implementing a community engagement and systems change initiative focused on improving how the courts, department of social services, and related child-serving organizations work together to improve and expedite services for young families with at least one child who is no more than 3 years of age involved in juvenile actions alleging abuse, neglect, or dependency.

§ 7B-536(b) Records Custodian. - The AOC Director shall be the legal custodian of safe babies court records. Safe babies court coordinators may have access to and use of safe babies court records for purposes of performing their job duties.

§ 7B-536(c) Not Public Record. - Safe babies court records are not public records as defined by G.S. 132-1. Safe babies court records may only be disclosed as follows:

- (1) The AOC Director, in the Director's sole discretion, may authorize the disclosure and redisclosure of de-identified safe babies court records without an order of the court.
- (2) Upon a written motion in the juvenile proceeding by any party requesting safe babies court records related to the juvenile proceeding and notice to the other parties and the AOC Director pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5, the AOC Director shall provide copies of the requested records in-camera to the court. The court shall conduct an in-camera review and hold a hearing. The court may order disclosure of the safe babies court records to any party upon a showing of good cause.

§ 7B-536(d) Coordinators Privilege. - Safe baby coordinators shall not be competent to testify in the juvenile proceeding. Any communications, information, documents, or other materials made or received in the course of performing job duties related to safe babies court shall be privileged except that there is no privilege for communications made in furtherance of a crime or fraud, or for matters that require mandatory reporting. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as permitting an individual to obtain immunity from prosecution for criminal conduct or as excusing an individual from

the reporting requirements of Article 3 of this Chapter, Article 39 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, G.S. 108A-102, or G.S. 110-105.4.

§ 7B-536(e) Guardian Ad Litem Information. - The Office of Guardian ad Litem Services and any appointed guardian ad litem may share information at safe babies court meetings as it deems in the best interests of the juvenile. (2024-33, s. 13.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
6 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. 14-113.20(b)	(a)	"(9) and (11) through (14) of"
G.S. 7B-401.1	(a)(5)	"Party. - As determined by"
G.S. 132-1	(c)	"not public records as defined by"
G.S. 1A-1	(c)(2)	"and the AOC Director pursuant to"
G.S. 108A-102	(d)	"Chapter 14 of the General Statutes,"
G.S. 110-105.4	(d)	"the General Statutes, G.S. 108A-102, or"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-536 (2026).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-536(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.

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