

Introduced by

Senators Oban, Dever, Oehlke

Representatives Beadle, Nathe, Hanson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 14-15-19 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to relinquishment and termination of parent and child relationship.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 14-15-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 created and enacted as follows:

6 ~~Service of the petition is complete upon compliance with the North Dakota Rules of~~  
7 ~~Civil Procedure. If the father or the father's last known address is unknown and the~~  
8 ~~address or identity of the father cannot be ascertained with reasonable diligence,~~  
9 ~~notice must be given by publishing a copy of the petition at least once a week for three~~  
10 ~~consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which conception~~  
11 ~~occurred. The last publication must be at least ten days before the time set for the~~  
12 ~~hearing. Proof of publishing the notice must be made at or before the hearing and filed~~  
13 ~~in the proceeding.~~

14 a. If the identity of the father or mother is known and an address for service is also  
15 known, or the address can be ascertained with reasonable diligence, the father or  
16 mother must be personally served the petition and notice for termination of  
17 parental rights in compliance with the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure.

18 b. If the identity of the father or mother is unknown but the father's or mother's  
19 location is known, and the identity of the father or mother cannot be ascertained  
20 with reasonable diligence, notice must be given by publication of the petition at  
21 least once a week for three consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the  
22 county in which the unknown father or mother is located.

23 c. If the identity and location of the father or mother are unknown and the location  
24 and identity of the father or mother cannot be ascertained with reasonable

- 1 diligence, notice must be given by publication of the petition at least once a week  
2 for three consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which  
3 conception occurred.  
4 d. The last publication as required under this subsection must be at least ten days  
5 before the time set for hearing. Proof of publication of the notice must be made at  
6 or before the hearing and filed in the proceeding.