

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1478  
(Representatives Boschee, Becker, Hanson, M. Johnson, K. Koppelman)  
(Senators Bakke, Hogue)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 27-20-24 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to juvenile hearings.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-20-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**27-20-24. Conduct of hearings.**

1. Hearings under this chapter must be conducted by the court without a jury, in an informal but orderly manner, and separately from other proceedings not included in section 27-20-03.
2. If the hearing has not been held within the time limit, or any extension thereof, required by subsection 1 of section 27-20-22, the petition must be dismissed.
3. The state's attorney upon request of the court shall present the evidence in support of any allegations of the petition not admitted and otherwise conduct the proceedings on behalf of the state.
4. Except for informal adjustments under section 27-20-10, the proceedings must be recorded by stenographic notes or by electronic, mechanical, or other appropriate means.
5. Hearings are open to the public if the purpose of the hearing is to declare a person in contempt of court ~~or to consider a petition alleging an offense identified under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 27-20-34 or subsection 2 of section 27-20-34.~~ The general public must be excluded from other hearings under this chapter. In hearings from which the general public is excluded, only the parties, their counsel, witnesses, victims, and any other persons the court finds have a proper interest in the proceedings may be admitted by the court. The court may temporarily exclude the child or other person from the hearing if, after being warned by the court that disruptive conduct will cause removal from the courtroom, the child or other person persists in conduct that justifies removal from the courtroom.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1478.

House Vote:      Yeas 91              Nays 1              Absent 2

Senate Vote:      Yeas 46              Nays 0              Absent 0

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State