

**Rule 10. Parties; Other Persons Entitled to Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard**

(a) Parties. The parties to a neglect proceeding shall include the District of Columbia, the child alleged to be neglected, and the parents, guardian or custodian.

(b) Additional parties. Pursuant to D.C. Code § 16-2304(b), a foster parent or other person with whom the child has been living for at least 12 months shall, upon request, be granted party status. A foster parent or other person with whom the child has been living for less than 12 months may be granted party status if the judicial officer finds that the interests of the child would be furthered by the participation of such person in the proceeding. A motion for party status may be made orally in open court or may be submitted to the judicial officer in writing. Any such written motion shall include the name of the child, the case number, the name, address and telephone number of the person seeking party status, the relationship between the child and the moving party, and a brief statement of the grounds for the request, including the length of time the child has been living with the moving party.

(c) Additional persons entitled to notice and opportunity to be heard. Upon notification to the Court by the parties or others, the following individuals and their attorneys shall be provided notice of, and an opportunity to be heard in, the neglect or termination proceedings:

- (1) The child's current foster parent;
- (2) The child's current preadoptive parent;
- (3) The child's current legal guardian or kinship caregiver;
- (4) The child's therapist; and
- (5) A relative or other individual with whom the child is currently placed pursuant to D.C. Code § 16-2320(a)(3)(C).