

38-2241. Additional parties. (a) *Jurisdiction of the court.* Parties and interested parties in a child in need of care proceedings are subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

(b) *Rights of parties.* Subject to the authority of the court to rule on the admissibility of evidence and provide for the orderly conduct of the proceedings, the rights of parties to participate in a child in need of care proceeding include, but are not limited to:

(1) Notice in accordance with K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 38-2236 and 38-2239, and amendments thereto;

(2) present oral or written evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses; and

(3) representation by an attorney in accordance with K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 38-2205, and amendments thereto.

(c) *Grandparents as interested parties.* (1) A grandparent of the child shall be an interested party to a child in need of care proceeding.

(2) Grandparents shall have the participatory rights of parties pursuant to subsection (b), except that the court may restrict those rights if the court finds that it would be in the best interests of the child. A grandparent may not be prevented under this paragraph from attending the proceedings, having access to the child's official file in the court records or making a statement to the court.

(d) *Persons with whom the child has been residing as interested parties.* (1) Any person with whom the child has resided for a significant period of time within six months of the date the child in need of care petition is filed shall be made an interested party, if such person notifies the court of such person's desire to become an interested party. Notification may be made in writing, orally or by appearance at the initial or a subsequent hearing on the child in need of care petition.

(2) Persons with interested party status under this subsection shall have the participatory rights of parties pursuant to subsection (b), except that the court may restrict those rights if the court finds that it would be in the best interests of the child.

(e) *Other interested parties.* (1) Any person with whom the child has resided at any time, who is within the fourth degree of relationship to the child, or to whom the child has close emotional ties may, upon motion, be made an interested party if the court determines that it is in the best interests of the child.

(2) Any other person or Indian tribe seeking to intervene that is not a party may, upon motion, be made an interested party if the court determines that the person or tribe has a sufficient relationship with the child to warrant interested party status or that the person's or tribe's participation would be beneficial to the proceedings.

(3) The court may, upon its own motion, make any person an interested party if the court determines that interested party status would be in the best interests of the child.

(f) *Procedure for determining, denying or terminating interested party status.* (1) Upon the request of the court, the secretary shall investigate the advisability of granting interested party status under this section and report findings and recommendations to the court.

(2) The court may deny or terminate interested party status under this subsection if the court determines, after notice and a hearing, that a person does not qualify for interested party status or that there is good cause to deny or terminate interested party status.

(3) A person who is denied interested party status or whose status as an interested party has been terminated may petition for review of the denial or termination by the chief judge of the district in which the court having jurisdiction over the child in need of care proceeding is located, or a judge designated by the chief judge. The chief judge or the chief judge's designee shall review the denial or termination within 30 days of receiving the petition. The child in need of care proceeding shall not be stayed pending resolution of the petition for review.

History: L. 2006, ch. 200, § 36; L. 2008, ch. 169, § 6; L. 2011, ch. 60, § 3; July 1.