

place in the state's juvenile code certain fundamental rights which should be granted to every juvenile and his or her parents or guardian in juvenile cases filed in the juvenile court. We set out some changes in current law with respect to how parental termination and other juvenile proceedings are conducted in the State of Nebraska. The basic purpose is to make it clear that when a juvenile or his parents, when the juvenile is alleged to be homeless or destitute and his parents are indigent or in parental termination cases where the parents are indigent, why the courts must inform all parties of the nature of the proceedings and possible consequences, the right to counsel for every party, the right to remain silent and the other rights that are set out in the summary. The amendments also allow the juvenile to be placed in the care and custody of Social Services pending adjudication if the juvenile does not require detention in a locked facility. It contains provisions directing law enforcement officers what to do when a juvenile is taken into custody using the standard of least restrictive alternative in any detention and other matters that are set out in the amendment. Now these provisions came to us from various judges of the county court, particularly judges in the Panhandle in Scottsbluff County who are particularly interested in light of an 1981 Supreme Court decision and seeing that a number of rights in these areas are codified so that the courts will treat juveniles uniformly throughout the state and their parents uniformly throughout the state in termination proceedings and parental termination proceedings, particularly in cases where a juvenile is alleged to be homeless or destitute or a parental termination case where the parents are indigent. Once again, these sets of amendments proposed to you are largely of a technical nature. They deal with the way the county courts, acting as juvenile courts, in 90 counties of the state, excluding Lancaster, Sarpy and Douglas County, handle their juvenile proceedings. They also govern the way the juvenile judges in those other three counties handle their juvenile proceedings. These provisions come to us from the court itself, from the county court. I would urge your adoption and would be pleased to answer your questions any of you may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Goodrich. Senator Goodrich, do you like to go...well, I guess Vard is coming so...