

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017**

**HOUSE BILL 688  
RATIFIED BILL**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT AN ORDER OR JUDGMENT PERTAINING TO THE VALIDITY OF A PREMARITAL AGREEMENT MAY BE IMMEDIATELY APPEALED AND TO CLARIFY FINDINGS OF FACT REQUIREMENTS MADE IN DISPOSITIONAL ORDERS WHERE REASONABLE EFFORTS FOR REUNIFICATION ARE NOT REQUIRED.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 50-19.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 50-19.1. Maintenance of certain appeals allowed.**

Notwithstanding any other pending claims filed in the same action, a party may appeal from an order or judgment adjudicating a claim for absolute divorce, divorce from bed and board, the validity of a premarital agreement as defined by G.S. 52B-2(1), child custody, child support, alimony, or equitable distribution if the order or judgment would otherwise be a final order or judgment within the meaning of G.S. 1A-1, Rule 54(b), but for the other pending claims in the same action. A party does not forfeit the right to appeal under this section if the party fails to immediately appeal from an order or judgment described in this section. An appeal from an order or judgment under this section shall not deprive the trial court of jurisdiction over any other claims pending in the same action."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 7B-901(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) If the disposition order places a juvenile in the custody of a county department of social services, the court shall direct that reasonable efforts for reunification as defined in G.S. 7B-101 shall not be required if the court makes written findings of fact pertaining to any of the following, unless the court concludes that there is compelling evidence warranting continued reunification efforts:

- (1) A court of competent jurisdiction determines or has determined that aggravated circumstances exist because the parent has committed or encouraged the commission of, or allowed the continuation of, any of the following upon the juvenile:
  - a. Sexual abuse.
  - b. Chronic physical or emotional abuse.
  - c. Torture.
  - d. Abandonment.
  - e. Chronic or toxic exposure to alcohol or controlled substances that causes impairment of or addiction in the juvenile.
  - f. Any other act, practice, or conduct that increased the enormity or added to the injurious consequences of the abuse or neglect.
- (2) A court of competent jurisdiction terminates or has terminated involuntarily the parental rights of the parent to another child of the parent.
- (3) A court of competent jurisdiction determines or has determined that (i) the parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent; (ii) has aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit



murder or voluntary manslaughter of the child or another child of the parent; (iii) has committed a felony assault resulting in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent; (iv) has committed sexual abuse against the child or another child of the parent; or (v) has been required to register as a sex offender on any government-administered registry."

**SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to appeals filed on or after that date. Section 2 of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to disposition orders effective on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

s/ Bill Rabon  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018