

## **Subject Matter Jurisdiction; Verification of Petition**

[In re N.T.](#), \_\_\_ N.C. App. \_\_\_ (March 17, 2015)

### **Held: vacated**

- Relying on *Fansler V. Honeycutt* , a petition is not properly verified when the verification itself does not indicate the person performing the verification has the authority to administer oaths or verify pleadings. In this case, the signature of the person performing the verification of the initial petition alleging the child was neglected was illegible, no title was given for the person, and there was no competent evidence in record showing the petition was properly verified.
- Without a proper verification of an A/N/D petition, the court does not have subject matter jurisdiction, and all orders in the action are void ab initio. Because DSS never had custody of the child due to the lack of subject matter jurisdiction, DSS did not have standing to file a motion to terminate parental rights. As a result, the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction in the TPR.