

**Table 2.1. Priority of Placement in Nonsecure Custody**

1	<b>Non-Removal Parent</b>	
2	<p><b>Maternal or Paternal Adult Relatives: G.S. 7B-505(b), 7B-506(h)(2)</b>          Adult relatives include the child’s grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great grandparents, and other relatives suggested by the parents.</p> <p>If the court finds that the child’s relative is willing and able to provide proper care and supervision for the child in a safe home,* the court must order the child’s placement with that relative, unless the court also finds that placement with that relative is contrary to the child’s best interests.</p>	
3	<p><b>Persons with Legal Custody of the Child’s Sibling: G.S. 7B-505(c), 7B-506(h)(2a)</b>          The court may order placement with this person if the court finds that the person is willing and able to provide proper care and supervision to the child in a safe home* and that placement with this person is in the child’s best interests.</p>	<p><b>Nonrelative Kin: G.S. 7B-505(c), 7B-506(h)(2a)</b>          G.S. 7B-101(15a) defines “nonrelative kin” as an adult who has a substantial relationship with the child or, if the child is a member of state-recognized Indian tribe, an adult who is a member of a state-recognized or federally recognized Indian tribe.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>The court may place the child with nonrelative kin, if the court finds that the adult is willing and able to provide proper care and supervision to the child in a safe home* and that placement with this person is in the child’s best interests.</p>
4	<p><b>Someone Else Approved by the Court and Designated in the Order: G.S. 7B-505(a)(3); 7B-507(a)(4)</b>          The court may order such placement if the court finds it is in the child’s best interests.</p>	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>County Department of Social Services: G.S. 7B-505(a)(1), (2); 7B-507(a)(4)</b>          Custody and placement responsibility is ordered to the county department.</p>

\* Note that G.S. 7B-101(19) defines “safe home” as “[a] home in which the juvenile is not at substantial risk of physical or emotional abuse or neglect.”

appropriate visitation as may be in the best interests of the juvenile consistent with the juvenile’s health and safety.”<sup>63</sup>

Section 1201 of the North Carolina Division of Social Services’ Child Welfare Services Manual discusses the importance of visitation between a child who has been removed from his or her home and the child’s parents.<sup>64</sup> Visitation is considered “an

63. G.S. 7B-905.1(a).

64. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL, 1201—Child Placement Services §§ V. B.2, D., F., G., <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-10/man/1201sV.pdf>.