

Checklist of proper notice for .26 hearing:

You must find whether proper notice was given for the .26 hearing. [See WIC §294(d).]
Notice to the parent is deemed proper under any one of the following methods:

When setting the .26 hearing, you order the parent to be present and direct that service of notice be made on the parent by first-class mail [WIC §294(f)(1)];

By certified mail to the parent's last known address with signed return receipt [WIC §294(f)(2)];

By personal service to the parent [WIC §294(f)(3)];

By substituted service to the parent [WIC §294(f)(4)];

To an out-of-state parent, by certified mail, return receipt requested [WIC §294(f)(5)];

If a parent's identity is known but his or her whereabouts are unknown, and due diligence to locate the parent is shown, to the parent's counsel, by certified mail, return receipt requested; if there is no attorney for the parent, by publication [WIC §294(f)(7)(A)]; or

If a parent's identity is unknown, court determines there has been due diligence to identify unknown parent, and social worker recommends adoption, by court-ordered publication notice if court determines that notice by publication is likely to lead to actual notice to the parent [WIC §294(g)(1)–(2)].

If guardianship or long-term foster care is the recommended plan, or, in the case of an Indian child, tribal customary adoption, notice to the parent is deemed proper under any one of the following methods:

By first-class mail to the parent's usual place of residence or business [WIC §294(f)(6)]; or

If the parent's whereabouts are unknown, by first-class mail to the grandparents if their identities and addresses are known [WIC §294(f)(7)(B)]; but

If a parent's identity is unknown, court determines there has been due diligence to identify unknown parent, and social worker recommends guardianship or long-term foster care, no further notice is required [WIC §294(g)(3)].