

**257.02 SURRENDER OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

No person other than the parents or relatives may assume the permanent care and custody of a child under 14 years of age unless authorized so to do by an order or decree of court. However, if a parent of a child who is being cared for by a relative dies, or if the parent is not or cannot fulfill parental duties with respect to the child, the relative may bring a petition under section 260C.141. Except in proceedings for adoption or by a consent decree entered under section 257C.07, no parent may assign or otherwise transfer to another parental rights or duties with respect to the permanent care and custody of a child under 14 years of age. Any such transfer shall be void.

**History:** (4561) *Ex1919 c 51 s 2; 1986 c 444; 1996 c 421 s 2; 1997 c 112 s 1; 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2; 2002 c 304 s 13*