
HOUSE BILL 1236

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Boldt, Pettigrew, Darneille, Moeller, Clibborn, Roach, Armstrong, Jarrett, Lantz, Kenney, Benson, Shabro, Anderson and Mielke

Read first time 01/21/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to public access to child dependency hearings; and
2 amending RCW 13.34.115.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.115 and 2000 c 122 s 12 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 All hearings may be conducted at any time or place within the
7 limits of the county, and such cases may not be heard in conjunction
8 with other business of any other division of the superior court. The
9 public shall not be excluded(~~(, and only such persons may be admitted~~
10 ~~who are found by the judge to have a direct interest in the case or in~~
11 ~~the work of the court)) except if the judge finds that excluding the
12 public is in the best interest of the child. Unless the court states
13 on the record the reasons to disallow attendance, the court shall allow
14 a child's relatives and, if a child resides in foster care, the child's
15 foster parent, to attend all hearings and proceedings pertaining to the
16 child for the sole purpose of providing oral and written information
17 about the child and the child's welfare to the court.~~

18 Stenographic notes or any device which accurately records the

1 proceedings may be required as provided in other civil cases pursuant
2 to RCW 2.32.200.

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