
SENATE BILL 5860

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators King, Hobbs, Saldaña, Cleveland, Wilson, C., Frockt, Kuderer, and Nguyen

Read first time 02/07/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to kinship care; and amending RCW 74.13.600.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.600 and 2018 c 284 s 61 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) For the purposes of this section, "kin" means persons
6 eighteen years of age or older to whom the child is related by blood,
7 adoption, or marriage, including marriages that have been dissolved,
8 and means: (a) Any person denoted by the prefix "grand" or "great";
9 (b) sibling, whether full, half, or step; (c) uncle or aunt; (d)
10 nephew or niece; or (e) first cousin.

11 (2) The department shall plan, design, and implement strategies
12 to prioritize the placement of children with willing and able kin
13 when out-of-home placement is required.

14 These strategies must include at least the following:

15 (a) Development of standardized, statewide procedures to be used
16 when searching for kin of children prior to out-of-home placement.
17 The procedures must include a requirement that documentation be
18 maintained in the child's case record that identifies kin, and
19 documentation that identifies the assessment criteria and procedures
20 that were followed during all kin searches. The procedures must be
21 used when a child is placed in out-of-home care under authority of

1 chapter 13.34 RCW, when a petition is filed under RCW 13.32A.140, or
2 when a child is placed under a voluntary placement agreement. To
3 assist with implementation of the procedures, the department shall
4 request that the juvenile court require parents to disclose to the
5 department all contact information for available and appropriate kin
6 within two weeks of an entered order. For placements under signed
7 voluntary agreements, the department shall encourage the parents to
8 disclose to the department all contact information for available and
9 appropriate kin within two weeks of the date the parent signs the
10 voluntary placement agreement.

11 (b) Development of procedures for conducting active outreach
12 efforts to identify and locate kin during all searches. The
13 procedures must include at least the following elements:

14 (i) Reasonable efforts to interview known kin, friends, teachers,
15 and other identified community members who may have knowledge of the
16 child's kin, within sixty days of the child entering out-of-home
17 care;

18 (ii) Increased use of those procedures determined by research to
19 be the most effective methods of promoting reunification efforts,
20 permanency planning, and placement decisions;

21 (iii) Contacts with kin identified through outreach efforts and
22 interviews under this subsection as part of permanency planning
23 activities and change of placement discussions;

24 (iv) Establishment of a process for ongoing contact with kin who
25 express interest in being considered as a placement resource for the
26 child; and

27 (v) A requirement that when the decision is made to not place the
28 child with any kin, the department provides documentation as part of
29 the child's individual service and safety plan that clearly
30 identifies the rationale for the decision and corrective action or
31 actions the kin must take to be considered as a viable placement
32 option.

33 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create an
34 entitlement to services or to create judicial authority to order the
35 provision of services to any person or family if the services are
36 unavailable or unsuitable or the child or family is not eligible for
37 such services.

1 (4) The department shall provide maintenance payments to
2 unlicensed kinship caregivers with children placed by the department
3 at the same rate as licensed foster parents.

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