
HOUSE BILL 1970

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives McClintock, Couture, Waters, Graham, Cheney, Sandlin, Harris, and Caldier

Prefiled 12/18/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving communication between the department
2 of children, youth, and families and caregivers; adding a new section
3 to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The department shall establish a caregiver communication
9 specialist position within the department for the purpose of
10 improving communication between the department and caregivers. The
11 caregiver communication specialist position established in this
12 section is responsible for:

13 (1) Assisting caseworkers in promptly communicating with
14 caregivers of children receiving child welfare services;

15 (2) Developing policies for sharing appropriate and timely
16 information with caregivers of children receiving child welfare
17 services; and

18 (3) Supporting coordination between existing caregiver engagement
19 teams, constituent relations, communications specialists, and child
20 welfare field offices.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By October 1, 2025, and in compliance
2 with RCW 43.01.036, the department of children, youth, and families
3 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
4 legislature and the governor describing:

5 (a) How the department of children, youth, and families could
6 implement an automated notification system that would provide
7 electronic or telephonic notifications to caregivers of children
8 receiving child welfare services regarding upcoming changes in
9 placements for the child, court hearings, or other relevant and
10 appropriate information;

11 (b) Any statutory, policy, or funding changes needed to
12 accomplish the automated notification system described in (a) of this
13 subsection; and

14 (c) Recommendations regarding improving communications between
15 the department of children, youth, and families and caregivers. The
16 department shall consult with the caregiver communication specialist
17 established in section 1 of this act, current and former caregivers,
18 and youth who received or are receiving child welfare services
19 regarding the recommendations required under this subsection.

20 (2) This section expires April 1, 2026.

--- END ---