
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2516

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law (originally sponsored by Representative Benson)

Read first time 02/06/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to support obligations of physical custodians; and
2 amending RCW 74.20.065.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.20.065 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 s 31 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The department is authorized to excuse the legal custodian from
7 support payments if a superior court or tribal court has made a finding
8 that:

9 (a) The legal custodian has been wrongfully deprived of physical
10 custody(, the department is authorized to excuse the custodian from
11 support payments for a child or children receiving or on whose behalf
12 public assistance was provided under chapter 74.12 RCW)). A legal
13 custodian is wrongfully deprived of physical custody if:

14 (i) The child is taken or enticed from the legal custodian's
15 physical custody. Proof of enticement may include establishing that
16 the child is allowed to live without reasonably appropriate supervision
17 and restriction;

18 (ii) The legal custodian has not subsequently assented to the
19 deprivation; and

1 (iii) The legal custodian has made reasonable efforts to regain
2 physical custody; or
3 (b) It is not in the best interest of the child, as determined in
4 subsection (2) of this section, to be in the physical custody of the
5 physical custodian, and the physical custodian:
6 (i) Is not a relative of the child;
7 (ii) Is not licensed under RCW 74.15.030 to care for children;
8 (iii) Does not have legal custody of the child; or
9 (iv) Is not a person the child has been placed with under a court
10 order.
11 (2) A judge may consider the following factors when making a
12 determination of the child's best interest:
13 (a) The strength of the relationship between the child and the
14 physical custodian;
15 (b) The relationship between each of the child's parents and the
16 physical custodian;
17 (c) The nature and reason for either parent's objection to the
18 physical custodian retaining custody;
19 (d) Any criminal history or history of physical, emotional, or
20 sexual abuse or neglect by the physical custodian; and
21 (e) Any other factor relevant to the child's best interest.

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