CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5413

57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2001 YEAS 48 NAYS 0

CERTIFICATE

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 18, 2001 YEAS 91 NAYS 0 I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5413** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Secretary

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved FILED

Secretary of State State of Washington

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5413

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2001 Regular Session

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Long and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/01.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to provisions to improve accountability in child
- 2 dependency cases; amending RCW 13.34.062, 13.34.065, 13.34.180,
- 3 13.34.138, and 13.34.110; and adding new sections to chapter 13.34 RCW.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW 6 to read as follows:
- 7 (1) Following shelter care and no later than twenty-five days prior
- 8 to fact-finding, the department, upon the parent's request or counsel
- 9 for the parent's request, shall facilitate a conference to develop and
- 10 specify in a written service agreement the expectations of both the
- 11 department and the parent regarding the care and placement of the
- 12 child.
- 13 The department shall invite to the conference the parent, counsel
- 14 for the parent, the foster parent or other out-of-home care provider,
- 15 caseworker, guardian ad litem, counselor, or other relevant health care
- 16 provider, and any other person connected to the development and well-
- 17 being of the child.
- 18 The initial written service agreement expectations must correlate
- 19 with the court's findings at the shelter care hearing. The written

- l service agreement must set forth specific criteria that enables the
- 2 court to measure the performance of both the department and the parent,
- 3 and must be updated throughout the dependency process to reflect
- 4 changes in expectations. The service agreement must serve as the
- 5 unifying document for all expectations established in the department's
- 6 various case planning and case management documents and the findings
- 7 and orders of the court during dependency proceedings.
- 8 The court shall review the written service agreement at each stage
- 9 of the dependency proceedings and evaluate the performance of both the
- 10 department and the parent for consistent, measurable progress in
- 11 complying with the expectations identified in the agreement.
- 12 The case conference agreement must be agreed to and signed by the
- 13 parties. The court shall not consider the content of the discussions
- 14 at the case conference at the time of the fact-finding hearing for the
- 15 purposes of establishing that the child is a dependent child, and the
- 16 court shall not consider any documents or written materials presented
- 17 at the case conference but not incorporated into the case conference
- 18 agreement, unless the documents or written materials were prepared for
- 19 purposes other than or as a result of the case conference and are
- 20 otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence.
- 21 (2) At any other stage in a dependency proceeding, the department,
- 22 upon the parent's request, shall facilitate a case conference.
- 23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.062 and 2000 c 122 s 5 are each amended to read
- 24 as follows:
- 25 (1) The written notice of custody and rights required by RCW
- 26 13.34.060 shall be in substantially the following form:
- 27 "NOTICE
- 28 Your child has been placed in temporary custody under the
- 29 supervision of Child Protective Services (or other person or agency).
- 30 You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your
- 31 interests.
- 1. A court hearing will be held before a judge within 72 hours of
- 33 the time your child is taken into custody excluding Saturdays, Sundays,
- 34 and holidays. You should call the court at ___(insert appropriate
- 35 phone number here) for specific information about the date, time,
- 36 and location of the court hearing.

- 2. You have the right to have a lawyer represent you at the 1 hearing. Your right to representation continues after the shelter care 2 3 hearing. You have the right to records the department intends to rely 4 upon. A lawyer can look at the files in your case, talk to child protective services and other agencies, tell you about the law, help 5 you understand your rights, and help you at hearings. If you cannot 6 afford a lawyer, the court will appoint one to represent you. To get 7 8 a court-appointed lawyer you must contact: (explain local 9 procedure) .
- 3. At the hearing, you have the right to speak on your own behalf, to introduce evidence, to examine witnesses, and to receive a decision based solely on the evidence presented to the judge.
- 4. If your hearing occurs before a court commissioner, you have the right to have the decision of the court commissioner reviewed by a superior court judge. To obtain that review, you must, within ten days after the entry of the decision of the court commissioner, file with the court a motion for revision of the decision, as provided in RCW 2.24.050.
- You should be present at any shelter care hearing. If you do not come, the judge will not hear what you have to say.
- You may call the Child Protective Services' caseworker for more information about your child. The caseworker's name and telephone number are: (insert name and telephone number).
- 5. You may request that the department facilitate a case conference to develop a written service agreement following the shelter care hearing. The service agreement may not conflict with the court's order of shelter care. You may request that a multidisciplinary team, family group conference, prognostic staffing, or case conference be convened for your child's case. You may participate in these processes with your counsel present."
- 31 Upon receipt of the written notice, the parent, guardian, or legal 32 custodian shall acknowledge such notice by signing a receipt prepared 33 by child protective services. If the parent, guardian, or legal 34 custodian does not sign the receipt, the reason for lack of a signature 35 shall be written on the receipt. The receipt shall be made a part of 36 the court's file in the dependency action.
- If after making reasonable efforts to provide notification, child protective services is unable to determine the whereabouts of the parents, guardian, or legal custodian, the notice shall be delivered or

- 1 sent to the last known address of the parent, guardian, or legal 2 custodian.
- 3 (2) If child protective services is not required to give notice 4 under RCW 13.34.060(2) and subsection (1) of this section, the juvenile 5 court counselor assigned to the matter shall make all reasonable 6 efforts to advise the parents, guardian, or legal custodian of the time 7 and place of any shelter care hearing, request that they be present, 8 and inform them of their basic rights as provided in RCW 13.34.090.
- 9 (3) Reasonable efforts to advise and to give notice, as required in RCW 13.34.060(2) and subsections (1) and (2) of this section, shall include, at a minimum, investigation of the whereabouts of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. If such reasonable efforts are not successful, or the parent, guardian, or legal custodian does not appear at the shelter care hearing, the petitioner shall testify at the hearing or state in a declaration:
- 16 (a) The efforts made to investigate the whereabouts of, and to 17 advise, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian; and
- (b) Whether actual advice of rights was made, to whom it was made, and how it was made, including the substance of any oral communication or copies of written materials used.
 - (4) The court shall hear evidence regarding notice given to, and efforts to notify, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian and shall examine the need for shelter care. The court shall hear evidence regarding the efforts made to place the child with a relative. The court shall make an express finding as to whether the notice required under RCW 13.34.060(2) and subsections (1) and (2) of this section was given to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. All parties have the right to present testimony to the court regarding the need or lack of need for shelter care. Hearsay evidence before the court regarding the need or lack of need for shelter care must be supported by sworn testimony, affidavit, or declaration of the person offering such evidence.
- 33 (5) A shelter care order issued pursuant to RCW 13.34.065 may be 34 amended at any time with notice and hearing thereon. The shelter care 35 decision of placement shall be modified only upon a showing of change 36 in circumstances. No child may be placed in shelter care for longer 37 than thirty days without an order, signed by the judge, authorizing 38 continued shelter care.

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- 1 (6) Any parent, guardian, or legal custodian who for good cause is 2 unable to attend the initial shelter care hearing may request that a 3 subsequent shelter care hearing be scheduled. The request shall be 4 made to the clerk of the court where the petition is filed prior to the 5 initial shelter care hearing. Upon the request of the parent, the 6 court shall schedule the hearing within seventy-two hours of the 7 request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The clerk shall 8 notify all other parties of the hearing by any reasonable means.
- 9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.34.065 and 2000 c 122 s 7 are each amended to read 10 as follows:
- 11 (1) The juvenile court probation counselor shall submit a 12 recommendation to the court as to the further need for shelter care 13 unless the petition has been filed by the department, in which case the 14 recommendation shall be submitted by the department.
- (2) The court shall release a child alleged to be dependent to the care, custody, and control of the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian unless the court finds there is reasonable cause to believe that:
- 19 (a) After consideration of the specific services that have been 20 provided, reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the 21 need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it 22 possible for the child to return home; and
- 23 (b)(i) The child has no parent, guardian, or legal custodian to 24 provide supervision and care for such child; or
- 25 (ii) The release of such child would present a serious threat of 26 substantial harm to such child; or
- (iii) The parent, guardian, or custodian to whom the child could be released has been charged with violating RCW 9A.40.060 or 9A.40.070.

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If the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, and the child was initially placed with a relative pursuant to RCW 13.34.060(1), the court shall order continued placement with a relative, unless there is reasonable cause to believe the health, safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized. If the child was not initially placed with a relative, and the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the supervising agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate a relative pursuant to RCW 13.34.060(1). If a relative is not available, the court shall order continued shelter

- 1 care or order placement with another suitable person, and the court
- 2 shall set forth its reasons for the order. The court shall enter a
- 3 finding as to whether RCW 13.34.060(2) and subsections (1) and (2) of
- 4 this section have been complied with. If actual notice was not given
- 5 to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian and the whereabouts of such
- 6 person is known or can be ascertained, the court shall order the
- 7 supervising agency or the department of social and health services to
- 8 make reasonable efforts to advise the parent, guardian, or legal
- 9 custodian of the status of the case, including the date and time of any
- 10 subsequent hearings, and their rights under RCW 13.34.090.
- 11 (3) An order releasing the child on any conditions specified in
- 12 this section may at any time be amended, with notice and hearing
- 13 thereon, so as to return the child to shelter care for failure of the
- 14 parties to conform to the conditions originally imposed.
- The court shall consider whether nonconformance with any conditions
- 16 resulted from circumstances beyond the control of the parent and give
- 17 weight to that fact before ordering return of the child to shelter
- 18 care.
- 19 (4) If a child is returned home from shelter care a second time in
- 20 the case, or if the supervisor of the caseworker deems it necessary,
- 21 the multidisciplinary team may be reconvened.
- 22 (5) If a child is returned home from shelter care a second time in
- 23 the case a law enforcement officer must be present and file a report to
- 24 the department.
- 25 **Sec. 4.** RCW 13.34.180 and 2000 c 122 s 25 are each amended to read
- 26 as follows:
- 27 (1) A petition seeking termination of a parent and child
- 28 relationship may be filed in juvenile court by any party to the
- 29 dependency proceedings concerning that child. Such petition shall
- 30 conform to the requirements of RCW 13.34.040, shall be served upon the
- 31 parties as provided in RCW 13.34.070(8), and shall allege all of the
- 32 following unless subsection (2) or (3) of this section applies:
- 33 (a) That the child has been found to be a dependent child;
- 34 (b) That the court has entered a dispositional order pursuant to
- 35 RCW 13.34.130;
- 36 (c) That the child has been removed or will, at the time of the
- 37 hearing, have been removed from the custody of the parent for a period
- 38 of at least six months pursuant to a finding of dependency;

(d) That the services ordered under RCW 13.34.136 have been expressly and understandably offered or provided and all necessary services, reasonably available, capable of correcting the parental deficiencies within the foreseeable future have been expressly and understandably offered or provided;

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- That there is little likelihood that conditions will be 6 7 remedied so that the child can be returned to the parent in the near 8 A parent's failure to substantially improve parental 9 deficiencies within twelve months following entry of the dispositional 10 order shall give rise to a rebuttable presumption that there is little likelihood that conditions will be remedied so that the child can be 11 returned to the parent in the near future. The presumption shall not 12 13 arise unless the petitioner makes a showing that all necessary services reasonably capable of correcting the parental deficiencies within the 14 15 foreseeable future have been clearly offered or provided. In determining whether the conditions will be remedied the court may 16 consider, but is not limited to, the following factors: 17
 - (i) Use of intoxicating or controlled substances so as to render the parent incapable of providing proper care for the child for extended periods of time or for periods of time that present a risk of imminent harm to the child, and documented unwillingness of the parent to receive and complete treatment or documented multiple failed treatment attempts; or
 - (ii) Psychological incapacity or mental deficiency of the parent that is so severe and chronic as to render the parent incapable of providing proper care for the child for extended periods of time or for periods of time that present a risk of imminent harm to the child, and documented unwillingness of the parent to receive and complete treatment or documentation that there is no treatment that can render the parent capable of providing proper care for the child in the near future; and
- 32 (f) That continuation of the parent and child relationship clearly 33 diminishes the child's prospects for early integration into a stable 34 and permanent home.
- 35 (2) In lieu of the allegations in subsection (1) of this section, 36 the petition may allege that the child was found under such 37 circumstances that the whereabouts of the child's parent are unknown 38 and no person has acknowledged paternity or maternity and requested 39 custody of the child within two months after the child was found.

- 1 (3) In lieu of the allegations in subsection (1)(b) through (f) of 2 this section, the petition may allege that the parent has been 3 convicted of:
- 4 (a) Murder in the first degree, murder in the second degree, or 5 homicide by abuse as defined in chapter 9A.32 RCW against another child 6 of the parent;
- 7 (b) Manslaughter in the first degree or manslaughter in the second 8 degree, as defined in chapter 9A.32 RCW against another child of the 9 parent;
- 10 (c) Attempting, conspiring, or soliciting another to commit one or 11 more of the crimes listed in (a) or (b) of this subsection; or
- 12 (d) Assault in the first or second degree, as defined in chapter 13 9A.36 RCW, against the surviving child or another child of the parent.
- (4) Notice of rights shall be served upon the parent, guardian, or legal custodian with the petition and shall be in substantially the following form:

17 "NOTICE

A petition for termination of parental rights has been filed against you. You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. This petition could result in permanent loss of your parental rights.

- 1. You have the right to a fact-finding hearing before a judge.
- 2. You have the right to have a lawyer represent you at the hearing. A lawyer can look at the files in your case, talk to the department of social and health services and other agencies, tell you about the law, help you understand your rights, and help you at hearings. If you cannot afford a lawyer, the court will appoint one to represent you. To get a court-appointed lawyer you must contact: ____(explain local procedure) .
- 3. At the hearing, you have the right to speak on your own behalf, to introduce evidence, to examine witnesses, and to receive a decision based solely on the evidence presented to the judge.

You should be present at this hearing.

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You may call ___(insert agency) ___ for more information 1 about your child. The agency's name and telephone number are 2 (insert name and telephone number) ." 3

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Sec. 5. RCW 13.34.138 and 2000 c 122 s 19 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except for children whose cases are reviewed by a citizen 7 review board under chapter 13.70 RCW, the status of all children found to be dependent shall be reviewed by the court at least every six months from the beginning date of the placement episode or the date dependency is established, whichever is first, at a hearing in which it shall be determined whether court supervision should continue. initial review hearing shall be an in-court review and shall be set six months from the beginning date of the placement episode or no more than ninety days from the entry of the disposition order, whichever comes first. The initial review hearing may be a permanency planning hearing when necessary to meet the time frames set forth in RCW 13.34.145(3) or 13.34.134. The review shall include findings regarding the agency and parental completion of disposition plan requirements, and if necessary, revised permanency time limits. This review shall consider both the agency's and parent's efforts that demonstrate consistent measurable progress over time in meeting the disposition plan requirements. The requirements for the initial review hearing, including the in-court requirement, shall be accomplished within existing resources. supervising agency shall provide a foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative with notice of, and their right to an opportunity to be heard in, a review hearing pertaining to the child, but only if that person is currently providing care to that child at the time of the hearing. This section shall not be construed to grant party status to any person who has been provided an opportunity to be heard.
- 30 (a) A child shall not be returned home at the review hearing unless the court finds that a reason for removal as set forth in RCW 13.34.130 31 no longer exists. The parents, guardian, or legal custodian shall 32 33 report to the court the efforts they have made to correct the conditions which led to removal. If a child is returned, casework 34 supervision shall continue for a period of six months, at which time 35 36 there shall be a hearing on the need for continued intervention.
- 37 (b) If the child is not returned home, the court shall establish in 38 writing:

- 1 (i) Whether reasonable services have been provided to or offered to 2 the parties to facilitate reunion, specifying the services provided or 3 offered;
- 4 (ii) Whether the child has been placed in the least-restrictive 5 setting appropriate to the child's needs, including whether 6 consideration and preference has been given to placement with the 7 child's relatives;
- 8 (iii) Whether there is a continuing need for placement and whether 9 the placement is appropriate;
- 10 (iv) Whether there has been compliance with the case plan by the 11 child, the child's parents, and the agency supervising the placement;
- 12 (v) Whether progress has been made toward correcting the problems 13 that necessitated the child's placement in out-of-home care;
- (vi) Whether the parents have visited the child and any reasons why visitation has not occurred or has been infrequent;
- (vii) Whether additional services, including housing assistance, are needed to facilitate the return of the child to the child's parents; if so, the court shall order that reasonable services be offered specifying such services; and
- 20 (viii) The projected date by which the child will be returned home 21 or other permanent plan of care will be implemented.
- (c) The court at the review hearing may order that a petition seeking termination of the parent and child relationship be filed.
- (2) The court's ability to order housing assistance under RCW 13.34.130 and this section is: (a) Limited to cases in which homelessness or the lack of adequate and safe housing is the primary reason for an out-of-home placement; and (b) subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW to read as follows:
- The department shall, within existing resources, provide to parents requesting a multidisciplinary team, family group conference, prognostic staffing, or case conference, information that describes these processes prior to the processes being undertaken.
- 35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 13.34.110 and 2000 c 122 s 11 are each amended to read 36 as follows:

- (1) The court shall hold a fact-finding hearing on the petition 1 and, unless the court dismisses the petition, shall make written 2 3 findings of fact, stating the reasons therefor. The rules of evidence 4 shall apply at the fact-finding hearing and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child shall have all of the rights provided in 5 RCW 13.34.090(1). The petitioner shall have the burden of establishing 6 by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is dependent within 7 8 the meaning of RCW 13.34.030.
- 9 (2)(a) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child may waive his or her right to a fact-finding hearing by stipulating or 10 agreeing to the entry of an order of dependency establishing that the 11 12 child is dependent within the meaning of RCW 13.34.030. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian may also stipulate or agree to an order of 13 14 disposition pursuant to RCW 13.34.130 at the same time. Any stipulated or agreed order of dependency or disposition must be signed by the 15 parent, quardian, or legal custodian and his or her attorney, unless 16 the parent, quardian, or legal custodian has waived his or her right to 17 18 an attorney in open court, and by the petitioner and the attorney, guardian ad litem, or court-appointed special advocate for the child, 19 if any. If the department of social and health services is not the 20 petitioner and is required by the order to supervise the placement of 21 the child or provide services to any party, the department must also 22 agree to and sign the order. 23
 - (b) Entry of any stipulated or agreed order of dependency or disposition is subject to approval by the court. The court shall receive and review a social study before entering a stipulated or agreed order and shall consider whether the order is consistent with the allegations of the dependency petition and the problems that necessitated the child's placement in out-of-home care. No social file or social study may be considered by the court in connection with the fact-finding hearing or prior to factual determination, except as otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence.

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- 33 (c) Prior to the entry of any stipulated or agreed order of 34 dependency, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child and 35 his or her attorney must appear before the court and the court within 36 available resources must inquire and establish on the record that:
- 37 <u>(i) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian understands the terms</u>
 38 of the order or orders he or she has signed, including his or her

- 1 responsibility to participate in remedial services as provided in any 2 disposition order;
- (ii) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian understands that entry of the order starts a process that could result in the filing of a petition to terminate his or her relationship with the child within the time frames required by state and federal law if he or she fails to comply with the terms of the dependency or disposition orders or fails to substantially remedy the problems that necessitated the child's placement in out-of-home care;
- (iii) The parent, quardian, or legal custodian understands that the 10 entry of the stipulated or agreed order of dependency is an admission 11 12 that the child is dependent within the meaning of RCW 13.34.030 and shall have the same legal effect as a finding by the court that the 13 14 child is dependent by at least a preponderance of the evidence, and 15 that the parent, quardian, or legal custodian shall not have the right in any subsequent proceeding for termination of parental rights or 16 dependency quardianship pursuant to this chapter or nonparental custody 17 18 pursuant to chapter 26.10 RCW to challenge or dispute the fact that the 19 child was found to be dependent; and
- 20 <u>(iv) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian knowingly and</u>
 21 <u>willingly stipulated and agreed to and signed the order or orders,</u>
 22 <u>without duress, and without misrepresentation or fraud by any other</u>
 23 party.
- 24 If a parent, quardian, or legal custodian fails to appear before the court after stipulating or agreeing to entry of an order of 25 dependency, the court may enter the order upon a finding that the 26 parent, quardian, or legal custodian had actual notice of the right to 27 appear before the court and chose not to do so. The court may require 28 other parties to the order, including the attorney for the parent, 29 30 guardian, or legal custodian, to appear and advise the court of the parent's, quardian's, or legal custodian's notice of the right to 31 appear and understanding of the factors specified in this subsection. 32 A parent, quardian, or legal custodian may choose to waive his or her 33 34 presence at the in-court hearing for entry of the stipulated or agreed order of dependency by submitting to the court through counsel a 35 completed stipulated or agreed dependency fact-finding/disposition 36 37 statement in a form determined by the Washington state supreme court

pursuant to General Rule GR 9.

(3) Immediately after the entry of the findings of fact, the court 1 2 shall hold a disposition hearing, unless there is good cause for 3 continuing the matter for up to fourteen days. If good cause is shown, 4 the case may be continued for longer than fourteen days. Notice of the 5 time and place of the continued hearing may be given in open court. If notice in open court is not given to a party, that party shall be 6 7 notified by certified mail of the time and place of any continued 8 Unless there is reasonable cause to believe the health, 9 safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized or efforts to 10 reunite the parent and child would be hindered, the court shall direct the department to notify those adult persons who: $((\frac{1}{1}))$ (a) Are 11 related by blood or marriage to the child in the following degrees: 12 13 Parent, grandparent, brother, sister, stepparent, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, or aunt; $((\frac{2}{2}))$ are known to the department as 14 15 having been in contact with the family or child within the past twelve 16 months; and ((+3))) (c) would be an appropriate placement for the 17 child. Reasonable cause to dispense with notification to a parent under this section must be proved by clear, cogent, and convincing 18 19 evidence.

The parties need not appear at the fact-finding or dispositional hearing if the parties, their attorneys, the guardian ad litem, and court-appointed special advocates, if any, are all in agreement. ((The court shall receive and review a social study before entering an order based on agreement. No social file or social study may be considered by the court in connection with the fact-finding hearing or prior to factual determination, except as otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence.))

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NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW to read as follows:

The department of social and health services shall promulgate rules that create good cause exceptions to the establishment and enforcement of child support from parents of children in out-of-home placement under chapter 13.34 or 13.32A RCW that do not violate federal funding requirements. The department shall present the rules and the department's plan for implementation of the rules to the appropriate committees of the legislature prior to the 2002 legislative session.