

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2591**

Chapter 180, Laws of 2016

64th Legislature  
2016 Regular Session

DEPENDENCY HEARINGS--NOTICE TO FOSTER PARENTS--REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016

Passed by the House February 12, 2016  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2016  
Yeas 47 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Approved April 1, 2016 3:37 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2591** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

April 4, 2016

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2591

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Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Hargrove, Kagi, Walsh, Dent, Caldier, Senn, Frame, Muri, Zeiger, McBride, Ormsby, and Gregerson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to notifying foster parents of dependency  
2 hearings and their opportunity to be heard in those hearings; and  
3 amending RCW 13.34.096 and 13.34.820.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.096 and 2009 c 520 s 25 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department or supervising agency shall provide the  
8 child's foster parents, preadoptive parents, or other caregivers with  
9 timely and adequate notice of their right to be heard prior to each  
10 proceeding held with respect to the child in juvenile court under  
11 this chapter. For purposes of this section, "timely and adequate  
12 notice" means notice at the time the department would be required to  
13 give notice to parties to the case and by any means reasonably  
14 certain of notifying the foster parents, preadoptive parents, or  
15 other caregivers, including but not limited to written, telephone, or  
16 in person oral notification. For emergency hearings, the department  
17 shall give notice to foster parents, preadoptive parents, or other  
18 caregivers as soon as is practicable. For six-month review and annual  
19 permanency hearings, the department shall give notice to foster  
20 parents upon placement or as soon as practicable.

1       (2) The court shall establish and include in the court record  
2 after every hearing for which the department or supervising agency is  
3 required to provide notice to the child's foster parents, preadoptive  
4 parents, and caregivers whether the department provided adequate and  
5 timely notice, whether a caregiver's report was received by the  
6 court, and whether the court provided the child's foster parents,  
7 preadoptive parents, or caregivers with an opportunity to be heard in  
8 court. For purposes of this section, "caregiver's report" means a  
9 form provided by the department of social and health services to a  
10 child's foster parents, preadoptive parents, or caregivers that  
11 provides an opportunity for those individuals to share information  
12 about the child with the court before a court hearing. A caregiver's  
13 report shall not include information related to a child's biological  
14 parent that is not directly related to the child's well-being.

15       (3) Absent exigent circumstances, the department shall provide  
16 the child's foster family home notice of expected placement changes  
17 as required by RCW 74.13.300.

18       (4) The rights to notice and to be heard apply only to persons  
19 with whom a child has been placed by the department (~~before shelter~~  
20 care)) or supervising agency and who are providing care to the child  
21 at the time of the proceeding. This section shall not be construed to  
22 grant party status to any person solely on the basis of such notice  
23 and right to be heard.

24       **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.820 and 2007 c 410 s 6 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26       (1) The administrative office of the courts, in consultation with  
27 the attorney general's office and the department of social and health  
28 services, shall compile an annual report, providing information about  
29 cases that fail to meet statutory guidelines to achieve permanency  
30 for dependent children.

31       (2) The administrative office of the courts shall submit the  
32 annual report required by this section to appropriate committees of  
33 the legislature by December 1st of each year, beginning on December  
34 1, 2007. The administrative office of the courts shall also submit  
35 the annual report to a representative of the foster parent  
36 association of Washington state.

37       (3) The annual report shall include information regarding whether  
38 foster parents received timely notification of dependency hearings as

1 required by RCW 13.34.096 and 13.34.145 and whether caregivers  
2 submitted reports to the court.

Passed by the House February 12, 2016.

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2016.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 2016.

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