

**WAC 110-50-0200 How does the department treat relatives of specified degree with legally free children?** (1) The department acknowledges a continuing relationship between relatives of specified degree and children who are legally free where the relatives choose to continue a relationship with the child and the continuing relationship is in the best interest of the child (see RCW 74.15.020 for the definition of relative of specified degree).

(2) Relatives of specified degree remain legal relatives when a child becomes legally free if those relatives wish to maintain a relationship with the child and the assigned social worker determines the continuing relationship is in the best interest of the child.

(3) Department staff must treat relatives of specified degree as the department treats all relatives under the rules of ICPC and the foster care and foster family home licensing programs.

The rights of the affected relatives of specified degree do not extend beyond adoption of the child except through an open adoption agreement (see RCW 26.33.295).

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