
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1487

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Clements and Skinner)

Read first time 03/01/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster parents' rights; amending RCW 74.13.280
2 and 74.13.330; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act is intended to protect, promote,
6 and nurture children, including foster children, by accomplishing the
7 following purposes:

8 (1) Creating a clear and well-defined set of services for families
9 with endangered children or foster children;

10 (2) Ensuring that services to families with endangered children or
11 foster children will be delivered in an orderly, predictable, and
12 consistent manner;

13 (3) Targeting services to families and children most at risk;

14 (4) Concentrating resources on those services that are most
15 effective and critically needed;

16 (5) Assuring that services are selected and tailored to meet the
17 specific needs of individual families;

18 (6) Improving coordination among agencies providing assistance to
19 families;

1 (7) Increasing agency accountability in providing services to
2 individual families;

3 (8) Assuring better information concerning services to assist
4 parents, foster parents, courts, advocates, legislators,
5 administrators, social workers, and others to plan for children more
6 effectively;

7 (9) Improving the quality, timeliness, and decisiveness of agency
8 and judicial decisions concerning families; and

9 (10) Ensuring that foster families and children, are treated in a
10 fair, objective, and expeditious manner by the department of social and
11 health services.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 Foster parents have the right to be free of coercion,
15 discrimination, and reprisal in serving foster children, including the
16 right to voice grievances about treatment furnished or not furnished to
17 the foster child.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 No department employee may retaliate against a foster parent or in
21 any other manner discriminate against any foster parent because:

22 (1) The foster parent made a complaint with the office of family
23 and children's ombudsman, the attorney general, law enforcement
24 agencies, or the department, provided information, or otherwise
25 cooperated with the investigation of such a complaint;

26 (2) The foster parent has caused to be instituted any proceedings
27 under or related to Title 13 RCW;

28 (3) The foster parent has testified or is about to testify in any
29 such proceedings;

30 (4) The foster parent has advocated for services on behalf of the
31 foster child;

32 (5) The foster parent has sought to adopt a foster child in the
33 foster parent's care; or

34 (6) The foster parent has discussed or consulted with anyone
35 concerning the foster parent's rights under this chapter or chapter
36 74.15 or 13.34 RCW.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.13.280 and 1997 c 272 s 7 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Except as provided in RCW 70.24.105, whenever a child is placed
4 in out-of-home care by the department or a child-placing agency, the
5 department or agency shall(~~(, within available resources,)~~) share
6 information about the child and the child's family with the care
7 provider and shall(~~(, within available resources,)~~) consult with the
8 care provider regarding the child's case plan. If the child is
9 dependent pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, the
10 department or agency shall keep the care provider informed regarding
11 the dates and location of dependency review and permanency planning
12 hearings pertaining to the child.

13 (2) Any person who receives information about a child or a child's
14 family pursuant to this section shall keep the information confidential
15 and shall not further disclose or disseminate the information except as
16 authorized by law.

17 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the
18 authority of the department or child-placing agencies to disclose
19 client information or to maintain client confidentiality as provided by
20 law.

21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.13.330 and 1990 c 284 s 23 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 Foster parents are responsible for the protection, care,
24 supervision, and nurturing of the child in placement. As an integral
25 part of the foster care team, foster parents shall(~~(7)~~): Assist in
26 family visitation, including monitoring; model effective parenting
27 behavior for the natural family; and if appropriate and they desire
28 to(~~(+)~~), participate in the development of the service plan for the
29 child and the child's family(~~(; assist in family visitation, including~~
30 monitoring; and model effective parenting behavior for the natural
31 family)).

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its
33 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
34 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
35 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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