
HOUSE BILL 2361

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, O'Brien, Kenney, Wood, Dickerson, Schual-Berke, Boldt, Morrell and Darneille

Prefiled 1/9/2004. Read first time 01/12/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to visitation for children in foster care; adding
2 a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that contact between
5 children in foster care and their biological families is an important
6 component of the well-being and successful development of those
7 children. Visitation helps to alleviate the fears and anxieties that
8 many children in foster care experience, and thereby improves relations
9 and interactions between the children and both their foster and
10 biological families. Visitation can also improve the likelihood of
11 successful, lasting reunifications by providing the framework for the
12 development of appropriate parent-child relationships.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The department of social and health services shall develop
16 consistent policies and protocols, based on current relevant research,
17 concerning visitation for children in foster care to be implemented
18 consistently throughout the state. The department shall develop the

1 policies and protocols in consultation with researchers in the field
2 and community-based agencies who provide related services in the state.
3 The policies and protocols shall include, but not be limited to: The
4 structure, quality, and frequency of visitations; and training for
5 caseworkers, visitation supervisors, and foster parents related to
6 visitation.

7 The policies and protocols shall be consistent with the provisions
8 of this chapter and implementation of the policies and protocols shall
9 be consistent with relevant orders of the court.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of social and health services
11 shall implement the policies and protocols required under section 2 of
12 this act across the state by January 1, 2005.

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