

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5379**

Chapter 228, Laws of 2003

58th Legislature  
2003 Regular Session

DEPENDENCY HEARINGS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/03

Passed by the Senate April 21, 2003  
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 14, 2003  
YEAS 93 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved May 12, 2003.

GARY LOCKE

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Senate of the  
State of Washington, do hereby  
certify that the attached is  
**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5379** as  
passed by the Senate and the House  
of Representatives on the dates  
hereon set forth.

MILTON H. DOUMIT JR.

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**Secretary**

FILED

May 12, 2003 - 4:06 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5379

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Carlson, Regala, Parlette, McAuliffe  
and Winsley

Read first time 01/23/2003.      Referred to Committee on Children &  
Family Services & Corrections.

1            AN ACT Relating to dependency petition hearings; and amending RCW  
2 13.34.115.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.115 and 2000 c 122 s 12 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) All hearings ((may)) shall be public, and conducted at any time  
7 or place within the limits of the county, ~~((and such cases may not be~~  
8 ~~heard in conjunction with other business of any other division of the~~  
9 ~~superior court. The public shall be excluded, and only such persons~~  
10 ~~may be admitted who are found by the judge to have a direct interest in~~  
11 ~~the case or in the work of the court. Unless the court states on the~~  
12 ~~record the reasons to disallow attendance, the court shall allow a~~  
13 ~~child's relatives and, if a child resides in foster care, the child's~~  
14 ~~foster parent, to attend all hearings and proceedings pertaining to the~~  
15 ~~child for the sole purpose of providing oral and written information~~  
16 ~~about the child and the child's welfare to the court))~~ except if the  
17 judge finds that excluding the public is in the best interests of the  
18 child.

1       (2) Either parent, or the child's attorney or guardian ad litem,  
2 may move to close a hearing at any time. If the judge finds that it is  
3 in the best interests of the child the court shall exclude the public.

4       (3) If the public is excluded from the hearing, the following  
5 people may attend the closed hearing unless the judge finds it is not  
6 in the best interests of the child:

7       (a) The child's relatives;

8       (b) The child's foster parents if the child resides in foster care;  
9 and

10       (c) Any person requested by the parent.

11       (4) Stenographic notes or any device which accurately records the  
12 proceedings may be required as provided in other civil cases pursuant  
13 to RCW 2.32.200.

14       (5) Any video recording of the proceedings may be released pursuant  
15 to RCW 13.50.100, however, the video recording may not be televised,  
16 broadcast, or further disseminated to the public.

Passed by the Senate April 21, 2003.

Passed by the House April 14, 2003.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2003.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 12, 2003.