
SENATE BILL 6416

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Hargrove, and Stevens

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to relatives in dependency proceedings; adding a
2 new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A relative, with the consent of the parent of removal, has a
7 right to be heard when a child has been placed with the relative for
8 twelve months or more and the department or supervising agency has made
9 the decision to remove the child from the relative's care. This right
10 includes the right to be represented by counsel at the relative's own
11 expense, and the right to cross-examine witnesses on the issue of
12 placement. The relative shall have seventy-two hours, excluding
13 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, to petition for standing from the
14 time the decision was made, or from the time the child was removed in
15 an alleged emergency basis. If a qualifying relative petitions for
16 standing, an expedited hearing will be set regarding placement of the
17 child.

18 (2) For the purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Decision to remove the child" means the department or the
2 supervising agency has indicated with certainty that it plans to remove
3 the child, or already has removed the child in an alleged emergency
4 basis, from placement with the relative.

5 (b) "Parent of removal" means the parent against whom a dependency
6 petition has been filed and has had a child removed.

7 (c) "Qualifying relative" means a relative who has had care of the
8 child for twelve months or more and has filed a petition.

9 (d) "Relative" means a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sibling of the
10 child.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the
12 Alexis Stuth act.

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