
HOUSE BILL 2591

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove, Kagi, Walsh, Dent, Caldier, Senn, Frame, Muri, Zeiger, McBride, Ormsby, and Gregerson

Read first time 01/15/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to notifying foster parents of dependency
2 hearings and their opportunity to be heard in those hearings; and
3 amending RCW 13.34.096 and 13.34.820.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.096 and 2009 c 520 s 25 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department or supervising agency shall provide the
8 child's foster parents, preadoptive parents, or other caregivers with
9 timely and adequate notice of their right to be heard prior to each
10 proceeding held with respect to the child in juvenile court under
11 this chapter. For purposes of this section, "timely and adequate
12 notice" means notice at the time the department would be required to
13 give notice to parties to the case and by any means reasonably
14 certain of notifying the foster parents, preadoptive parents, or
15 other caregivers, including but not limited to written, telephone, or
16 in person oral notification. For emergency hearings, the department
17 shall give notice to foster parents, preadoptive parents, or other
18 caregivers as soon as is practicable.

19 (2) The court shall establish in writing after every hearing for
20 which the department or supervising agency is required to provide
21 notice to the child's foster parents, preadoptive parents, and

1 caregivers whether the department provided adequate and timely
2 notice, whether a caregiver's report was received by the court, and
3 whether the court provided the caregiver with an opportunity to be
4 heard in court.

5 (3) The department shall provide the child's foster family home
6 notice of expected placement changes as required by RCW 74.13.300.

7 (4) The rights to notice and to be heard apply only to persons
8 with whom a child has been placed by the department before shelter
9 care or supervising agency and who are providing care to the child at
10 the time of the proceeding. This section shall not be construed to
11 grant party status to any person solely on the basis of such notice
12 and right to be heard.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.820 and 2007 c 410 s 6 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The administrative office of the courts, in consultation with
16 the attorney general's office and the department of social and health
17 services, shall compile an annual report, providing information about
18 cases that fail to meet statutory guidelines to achieve permanency
19 for dependent children.

20 (2) The administrative office of the courts shall submit the
21 annual report required by this section to appropriate committees of
22 the legislature by December 1st of each year, beginning on December
23 1, 2007. The administrative office of the courts shall also submit
24 the annual report to a representative of the foster parent
25 association of Washington state.

26 (3) The annual report shall include information regarding whether
27 foster parents received timely notification of dependency hearings as
28 required by RCW 13.34.096 and 13.34.145 and whether caregivers
29 submitted reports to the court.

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