

AMENDMENTS TO LB 461

Introduced by Health and Human Services

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following
2 new section:

3 Section 1. (1) With respect to the placement of any
4 foster child with a foster parent, if the placement is made
5 directly through the Department of Health and Human Services or
6 through an agency which contracts with the department to place
7 children in foster care, it is the intent of the Legislature that
8 the department:

9 (a) Treat foster parents with dignity, respect, trust,
10 value, and due consideration as the primary provider of foster care
11 and as a member of the team of professionals caring for foster
12 children;

13 (b) Regularly seek and consider input from foster parents
14 relating to resources and services necessary to meet the needs
15 of foster children and foster parent families, without threat of
16 reprisal;

17 (c) Provide necessary and appropriate training and
18 support for foster parents and their families;

19 (d) Encourage and facilitate communication between
20 foster parents and providers of care and services to foster
21 children, including, but not limited to, therapists, physicians,
22 and teachers;

23 (e) When appropriate and in the best interests of the

1 foster child, facilitate communication by foster parents of the
2 child with the child's birth family, other foster parents of the
3 child, and the adoptive parents of the child;

4 (f) Provide timely information on an ongoing basis to
5 foster parents relating to case plan changes or termination of the
6 placement of foster children and the reasons for such change or
7 termination;

8 (g) When appropriate, consider the former foster parents
9 of a child as a preferential foster care placement option when the
10 child reenters the foster care system;

11 (h) Prior to the foster care placement, provide timely
12 and appropriate information to foster parents regarding the foster
13 child's behavior, family background, and health history in order to
14 ensure the health or safety of the foster child and other members
15 of the foster family;

16 (i) Permit foster parents to accept or refuse a foster
17 care placement in their home or to request, upon reasonable notice
18 to the department, the removal of a foster child from their home
19 for good cause, without threat of reprisal;

20 (j) Encourage, when appropriate and in the best interests
21 of the foster child, the development of a positive and safe working
22 relationship between the child's foster family and the child's
23 birth family; and

24 (k) Encourage and facilitate respite periods for foster
25 parents.

26 (2) The department shall establish and implement policies
27 and procedures and may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations

1 consistent with subsection (1) of this section. The department
2 shall provide a copy of such policies and procedures to each foster
3 care licensee.

4 (3) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be construed
5 to create a private right of action.