



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

Policy Memo

June 3, 2024

TO: Child Welfare employees

FROM: Natalie Green, Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Division

SUBJECT: Changes to the [4308. Dependency Petition Process](#) policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 6, 2024

REVIEW DATE: June 6, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this policy memo is to provide guidance to child welfare employees regarding Senate Bill 6109 that now requires caseworkers to consider high potency synthetic opioids as a determining factor when filing a dependency petition and recommending out-of-home care.

This policy is currently being revised. This memo will be in effect from June 6-30, 2024.

Policy

Caseworkers filing dependency petitions must recommend an out-of-home placement when it has been determined necessary to prevent imminent physical harm due to CA/N, including that which results from sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, a pattern of severe neglect, or a high-potency synthetic opioid.

Questions

If you have any questions, contact Sandy McCool, Intake and Investigations Program Manager, Sandy.McCool@dcyf.wa.gov, (425) 677-0145.

Cc: [DCYF Policy Team](#)