



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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January 13, 2023

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Tara Camp, CFWS Statewide Program Manager

SUBJECT: CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (*RCW 34.05.325*)

For rules proposed under notice filed as WSR 22-23-093 on November 15, 2022:

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is amending :

- WAC 110-80-0260 What are the consequences of an adopted child being placed in foster care?
- WAC 110-50-0300 What cases must be referred to the division of child support (DCS)?
- WAC 110-50-0320 What constitutes good cause for not pursuing the collection or establishment of child support or paternity?

DCYF is repealing WAC 110-50-0310 Does children's administration refer foster care cases to the division of child support where good cause exists?

REASON FOR ADOPTION:

DCYF is making changes regarding referrals to the Division of Child Support when children are placed into the care of DCYF. DCYF had an automatic referral process to start collecting child support 72 hours after a child or youth is removed from the parents' or guardians' care and custody, unless good cause existed to not pursue collection. DCYF is revising good cause criteria to minimize the number of referrals to the Division of Child Support. These changes are being made to help to alleviate financial hardship and other barriers families often experience, which in turn helps reunify and stabilize children and their families sooner. In addition, the Governor's Office has included minimized referrals as a cost-savings in the 2022 budget proposal.

CHANGES MADE SINCE THE RULE WAS PROPOSED: None.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

On the rule of referrals, if it is what I thought it was. It is totally ridiculous. The whole argument is and was to protect our kids and if possible reunite the family. We have been foster parents for 20 years and in that time we have watch the welfare and rights of our kids determinate. They are the innocents in these situations. More needs to be done for our kids and our state government is doing less.

AGENCY RESPONSE

Ending automatic referrals to the Division of Child Support will not have any impact to supports related to children in foster placements.

This document also serves as the summary of public hearing comments to the agency head required under RCW 34.05.325(4).

cc: DCYF Rules Coordinator