



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

## CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: January 27, 2022

TIME: 1:42 PM

WSR 22-04-056

**Agency:** Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

**Subject of possible rule making:** DCYF will be making changes to the child welfare WACs in chapter 110-50 regarding referrals to the Division of Child Support when children are placed into DCYF's care. Currently DCYF has 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 exists to not pursue collection. DCYF wants to minimize the number of referrals to the Division of Child Support and revise good cause criteria as the current process can cause financial hardship and delay reunification.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 74.20.040

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** Referrals to the Division of Child Support can be harmful to families in the child welfare system by causing financial hardship, prolonged debt, and delayed reunification. Minimizing referrals will help family reunification occur sooner. Per RCW 74.14C.005, "children need their families and should be raised by their own families whenever possible," and "improvement of family functioning is essential in order to promote the child's health, safety, and welfare." Per RCW 13.34.020, the Legislature declares that "the family unit should remain intact unless a child's right to conditions of basic nurture, health, or safety is jeopardized."

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**


**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

**Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:**

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Additional comments:

<b>Date:</b> January 27, 2022	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Name:</b> Brenda Villarreal	
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