

Policies Effective 7/1/24

Adoption/Guardianship Assistance Changes:

- [14.02 Negotiations for Guardianship Assistance Program](#)
- [14.08 Negotiations for Adoption Assistance](#)

These policies have been revised to explain the negotiations for AAP and GAP will not be less than 100% of the foster care payment rate for any eligible child; this is an increase from 50%.

Legislative Policies:

[HEA 1051 Communication between caregivers and parents](#)

Key Takeaways:

- Adds language providing that supporting and facilitating two-way communication between parents and foster parents or kinship caregivers is a state policy.

Impacted Policies:

- [4.28 Removals from Parent/Guardian/Custodian](#)
- [5.03 Engaging the Family](#)
- [5.07 Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meetings](#)
- [8.01 Selecting a Placement Option](#)
- [8.11 Parental Interaction and Involvement](#)
- [8.41 Transitioning to Out-of-Home Care](#)

[HEA 1123 Child Advocacy Centers](#)

Key Takeaways:

- Provides that DCS may use a child advocacy center (CAC) to coordinate a multidisciplinary team for responding to reports involving child abuse or neglect (CA/N). Requires the CAC to:
 - (1) coordinate a multidisciplinary team that consists of specified professionals;
 - (2) ensure that the multidisciplinary team members have specified training;
 - (3) provide a dedicated child-focused setting designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and neutral place for a forensic interview and other child advocacy center services;
 - (4) use written protocols;
 - (5) use a case tracking system to provide information on essential demographic and case information; and
 - (6) verify that multidisciplinary team members responsible for providing medical evaluations and mental health services have specified training.
- Provides civil immunity for CAC employees, volunteers, and board members under certain circumstances.
- Allows otherwise confidential information regarding a CA/N investigation to be made available to a CAC when the CAC is facilitating a forensic interview, case discussion, or case review.

Impacted Policies:

- [2.06 Sharing Confidential Information](#)
- [4.09 Interviewing Children](#)
- [4.31 Child Fatality and Near Fatality Assessments](#)
- [4.47 Human Trafficking](#)

[SEA 169 \(IARCA Bill\) Child caring institutions and group homes](#)**Key Takeaways:**

- Requires specified types of residential child care facilities to:
 - (1) implement specified personnel policies, including with regard to: (A) minimum qualifications for specified employee classifications; and (B) maintenance of personnel records;
 - (2) comply with specified restrictions on caseloads;
 - (3) obtain specified health records, immunizations, and examinations for each child under the facility's care; and
 - (4) follow specified processes in providing medical care for children in the facility's care, including with regard to administering psychotropic medications.
- Provides that certain individuals at least 18 years of age but less than 21 years of age are included in the definitions for "child", "child abuse or neglect", and "victim of child abuse or neglect". Makes conforming and technical changes.

Impacted Policies:

- [3.08 Statutory Definition of Child Abuse and/or Neglect \(CA/N\)](#)
- [4.30 Conducting Institutional Investigations by the ICPS Unit](#)
- [4.31 Child Fatality & Near Fatality Assessments](#)
- [8.30 Psychotropic Medications](#)

[SEA 171 Reunification Plan for CHINS](#) (DCS Agency Bill)**Key Takeaways:**

- Amends the circumstances under which Reasonable Efforts (RE) to reunify a child with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or preserve a child's family are not required.

Impacted Policy:

- [15.03 Court Order Requirements for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility](#)