

HB 151 SUMMARY

	New provisions	What this changes	HB 151 Sec.	Statute
Placement with Adult Family Member or Family Friend	Relative search: OCS supervisors must certify in writing in casefile that search was done for placement with adult family member or family friend before placing child in foster home (at emergency custody; removal; any placement change). If search not done, supervisor must work to ensure it is done in shortest time feasible	New duty for OCS supervisors (OCS is already required to do the searches)	§8 §13 §14	47.10.080(s) 47.10.142(i) 47.14.100(e)
Foster Care License for Adult Family Member or Family Friend	Department may issue or renew a foster care license to an adult family member or family friend who has abused or neglected a child or vulnerable adult if the conduct occurred more than 10 years ago and if the placement is in the child's best interests	New exception to licensing standards	§4-7	47.05.310(c),(i),(l)
	OCS required to assist adult family member in obtaining a license or variance; decision on foster care license/variance should be made within 45 days	New requirements	§18 §21	47.14.115(b) 47.32.032(c)
No Removal if Safe Adult Family Member in Home	Child may not be removed if OCS determines child can remain safely at home with an adult family member or guardian who lives with the child.	New	§15	47.14.100(i)
Sibling Contact; Contact with Previous Placement	If siblings are separated, OCS must give contact information to each sibling and must encourage caregivers to provide opportunities for contact if in children's best interests; OCS required to give contact information of child in custody to a sibling, even if the sibling has been adopted; broad definition of "sibling"	New requirements; new definition (OCS already required to attempt to keep siblings together)	§16 §12	47.14.100(r) 47.10.093(b)
	OCS should enable child's contact with previous caregivers when appropriate and in best interest.	Adds legislative finding regarding child's best interests	§3	47.05.065(4)(G)

	New provisions	What this changes	Section	Statute
Foster Parent Decision-making	Foster parents have the right and responsibility to make decisions about child's activities, using "prudent parent" standard.	New	§9	47.10.084(d)
Older Youth	OCS required to engage youth 14 and older in development of case plan and permanency plan; youth may select up to two adults to participate (though OCS may reject an adult if not acting in youth's best interests); adult may advocate for the youth.	New provision	§10	47.10.086(h)
	When youth 16 and over is released from custody, OCS shall provide youth with (or assist youth in obtaining) birth certificate, social security card, health insurance information, medical records, driver's license or ID card, certificate of degree of Native blood.	New requirement	§20	47.18.320(d)
OCS Training, Caseloads, Report	OCS required to implement workload standards and a training program for staff. New employees: 6 weeks of training; caseload of 6 families for first 4 months; up to 12 families at 6 months. For other than new employees, the statewide average caseload should not exceed 13 families. OCS to prepare a staffing report to legislature if unable to meet training and caseload standards or if unable to employ sufficient staff to work with families to prevent removal of children and/or achieve timely permanency for children removed from the home	New requirements and standards	§17	47.14.112
Legislative Audit	In accepting resources made available to OCS, OCS agrees to cooperate with a special audit to begin within a year.	Legislative Intent language	§2	[24.20.281]
Referral to Community Services	If, after investigation, OCS determines not to provide services to the family, OCS may refer the family to services in the community; parents must agree.	New	§11 §19	47.10.093(a) 47.17.030(g)