

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0475.01 Alana Rosen x2606

HOUSE BILL 25-1097

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gilchrist and Froelich, Camacho, Rutinel, Stewart R.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Daugherty,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME**
102 **PLACEMENTS IN FAMILY-BASED SETTINGS THROUGH THE**
103 **CREATION OF PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the department of human services (department) to develop and adopt a placement transition plan (plan) template that outlines how a county or district department of human or social services (county department) will transition a child from one out-of-home placement in a foster care home, kinship foster care home, or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

non-certified kinship care home (placement) to another or back to the child's home. The purpose of the plan is to create consistency in transitioning children from one placement to another and to prevent children from experiencing unnecessary or abrupt placement changes that affect their well-being or sense of security.

The plan, at a minimum, must include:

- A determination of pre-transition logistics to adequately prepare for the child's new placement;
- A framework for pre-transition communications between the county department caseworker and individuals who are directly involved in the transition to ensure the transition is child-centered, trauma-informed, and in compliance with the rights of children and youth in foster care;
- A timeline to transition the child to a new placement;
- A plan to physically move the child to the new placement; and
- A framework for post-transition communications.

The department, within existing resources, shall create a training on the importance of plans that is recorded and made available on a training system that can be accessed statewide. The training must focus on plans and individuals who have lived experience with placement transitions.

Newly employed county caseworkers must complete the training within the first year of employment as a county caseworker. All caseworkers must complete this training every 3 years. A foster care, kinship foster care, or non-certified kinship care provider (provider) may complete the training and may receive support from the department or the county department to improve the provider's skills in transitioning a child in the provider's care from one placement to another.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-3-213.5 as
3 follows:

4 **19-3-213.5. Placement transition plans - out-of-home**
5 **placements in family-based settings - training - definitions.** (1) As
6 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN" MEANS A
8 PLAN DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO

1 PREVENT CHILDREN IN PLACEMENTS IN FOSTER CARE HOMES, KINSHIP
2 FOSTER CARE HOMES, OR NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOMES FROM
3 EXPERIENCING UNNECESSARY OR ABRUPT PLACEMENT CHANGES AFTER A
4 DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, BY THE COURT,
5 OR BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES FOR A CHANGE OF PLACEMENT.

6 (b) "PLACEMENT" MEANS PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER CARE HOME OR
7 A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME, AS BOTH ARE DEFINED IN SECTION
8 26-6-903, OR A NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOME.

9
10 (c) "PROVIDER" MEANS A FOSTER CARE PARENT OR A RELATIVE OR
11 KIN WHO PROVIDES KINSHIP FOSTER CARE AND WHO IS CERTIFIED TO
12 OPERATE A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6-910.
13 "PROVIDER" ALSO INCLUDES A RELATIVE OR KIN WHO PROVIDES
14 NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-6-903, TO A
15 CHILD.

16 (2) (a) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, ABSENT AN EMERGENCY
17 PLACEMENT CHANGE, A COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE
18 CASEWORKER SHALL CREATE AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION
19 PLAN FOR A CHILD ANY TIME THE CHILD IS MOVED FROM ONE PLACEMENT
20 IN A FOSTER CARE HOME, KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME, OR NON-CERTIFIED
21 KINSHIP CARE HOME TO ANOTHER OR IS MOVED FROM ANY PLACEMENT
22 BACK TO THE CHILD'S HOME. AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION
23 PLAN MUST PRIORITIZE THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL NEEDS
24 OF THE CHILD WHILE CONSIDERING THE NEEDS OF THE PARENTS, CURRENT
25 PROVIDERS, AND FUTURE PROVIDERS, AS THE NEEDS OF THE PARENTS,
26 CURRENT PROVIDERS, AND FUTURE PROVIDERS RELATE TO THE CARE OF
27 THE CHILD. THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER

1 SHALL DOCUMENT THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN IN
2 THE STATE AUTOMATED CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

3

4 (II) THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN MUST BE
5 DEVELOPED IN A MEETING WITH ALL PARTIES TO THE CASE, THE CURRENT
6 AND PROSPECTIVE PROVIDERS, AND THE CHILD IF IT IS APPROPRIATE TO THE
7 CHILD'S AGE OR DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL. IF A PARTY OR PROVIDER DOES
8 NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING, THE PARTY OR PROVIDER
9 WAIVES THEIR RIGHT TO WEIGH IN ON THE PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN.
10 IF ALL PARTIES AND PROVIDERS AGREE THAT A MEETING IS NOT REQUIRED,
11 THE MEETING MAY BE WAIVED.

12 (III) IF A SIBLING GROUP IS MOVED FROM A PLACEMENT TOGETHER,
13 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER MAY DEVELOP
14 ONE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE SIBLING
15 GROUP AS LONG AS THE PLAN TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INDIVIDUALIZED
16 NEEDS OF EACH CHILD.

17 (IV) THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN MUST
18 NOT BE USED TO SLOW DOWN THE RETURN OF A CHILD TO THE CHILD'S
19 HOME. THE COURT MAY ORDER A SPECIFIC DATE FOR COMPLETION OF THE
20 INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN TO ENSURE THAT AN
21 AGREED UPON OR COURT-ORDERED CHANGE IN PLACEMENT IS NOT
22 DELAYED DUE TO THE REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE AN INDIVIDUALIZED
23 PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN.

24

25 (b) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT
26 TRANSITION PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS
27 SECTION DOES NOT OVERRIDE A COURT ORDER FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A

1 CHILD. THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT
2 TRANSITION PLAN FOR A CHILD WHO IS MOVED TO A NEW PLACEMENT AS
3 A RESULT OF THE COURT'S ORDER.

4 (3) AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN MUST
5 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

6 (a) PRE-TRANSITION LOGISTICS TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE FOR THE
7 CHILD'S NEW PLACEMENT, WHICH INCLUDE:

8 (I) IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH ELEMENT OF
9 THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN;

10 (II) DETERMINING THE TIME FRAMES FOR THE IMPENDING
11 PLACEMENT CHANGE;

12 (III) IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHILD TO VISIT OR
13 CONTACT THE FUTURE PROVIDER PRIOR TO THE TRANSITION;

14 (IV) IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES THE CHILD MAY HAVE TO
15 MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER WITH PRIMARY
16 CONSIDERATION TO THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL NEEDS OF
17 THE CHILD AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PREFERENCES OF THE
18 CHILD AND THE FUTURE PROVIDER;

19 (V) DETERMINING, WHEN APPLICABLE, HOW A CHILD WILL
20 MAINTAIN CONNECTIONS WITH SIBLINGS WHEN SIBLINGS ARE NOT PLACED
21 TOGETHER, AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 19-7-204;

22 (VI) ENSURING THE CHILD HAS THEIR BELONGINGS AND CURRENT
23 MEDICATIONS, THAT THE CHILD'S BELONGINGS ARE CAREFULLY PACKED IN
24 APPROPRIATE LUGGAGE TO AVOID DAMAGE, AND THAT THERE IS
25 TRANSPORTATION OF THE CHILD'S BELONGINGS TO THE PLACEMENT, AS
26 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-7-101;

27 (VII) PROVIDING THE CHILD'S RECORDS AND INFORMATION, AS

1 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-3-210.5 (1)(i), TO THE FUTURE PROVIDER,
2 SUBJECT TO ANY PRIVILEGE OR CONFIDENTIALITY STANDARD RECOGNIZED
3 OR GOVERNED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW;

4 (VIII) SHARING INFORMATION BETWEEN THE CURRENT PROVIDER
5 AND THE FUTURE PROVIDER UPON THE CONSENT OF BOTH PROVIDERS;

6 (IX) IDENTIFYING WHETHER THE CHILD'S CURRENT HEALTH CARE
7 AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WILL CONTINUE OR TRANSITION TO NEW
8 PROVIDERS;

9 (X) COMMUNICATING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT
10 TRANSITION PLAN WITH THE CHILD IN AN AGE-APPROPRIATE MANNER;

11 (XI) PLANNING TO PHYSICALLY MOVE THE CHILD TO THE NEW
12 PLACEMENT; AND

13 (XII) SUPPORTING A CHILD WHO IS FOUND TO BE AN INDIAN CHILD
14 TO MAINTAIN OR DEVELOP CONNECTIONS WITH THE CHILD'S TRIBE
15 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978", 25
16 U.S.C. SEC. 1901, ET SEQ.

17 (b) A PLAN FOR PRE-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
18 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR THE TRANSITION.
19 THE PRE-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE CHILD-CENTERED,
20 TRAUMA-INFORMED, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
21 AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-7-101.

22

23 (c) A TIMELINE TO TRANSITION THE CHILD TO A NEW PLACEMENT,
24 WHICH MUST INCLUDE:

25 (I) NOTIFYING THE CHILD, CURRENT PROVIDER, AND FUTURE
26 PROVIDER BEFORE THE MOVE SO THE CHILD MAY SPEND TIME WITH THE
27 FUTURE PROVIDER OR SPEND TIME WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, SCHOOL

1 SUPPORTS, OR OTHER CONNECTIONS WHO MAY BE LOST AFTER THE MOVE;
2 AND
3 (II) ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE TIMELINE, IF NECESSARY,
4 THAT ALLOWS A CHILD TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY IF:
5 (A) THERE ARE SAFETY CONCERNS FOR THE CHILD'S PHYSICAL OR
6 EMOTIONAL SAFETY IN THE CURRENT PLACEMENT;
7 (B) THE CURRENT PROVIDER GIVES NOTICE THAT THEY CAN NO
8 LONGER CARE FOR THE CHILD AND THE TRANSITION TIMELINE MUST BE
9 SHORTENED;
10 (C) THE CHILD REQUESTS AN IMMEDIATE MOVE TO A NEW
11 PLACEMENT, WHICH MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FROM THE CURRENT
12 PROVIDER; OR
13 (D) THE COURT ORDERS A CHANGE IN PLACEMENT TO OCCUR
14 SOONER THAN A TRANSITION PLAN WOULD ALLOW;
15 (d) A PLAN TO PHYSICALLY MOVE THE CHILD TO THE NEW
16 PLACEMENT, WHICH MUST INCLUDE:
17 (I) MOVING THE CHILD TO THE NEW PLACEMENT BY SOMEONE
18 KNOWN TO THE CHILD, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE; AND
19 (II) NOTIFYING THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER THAT THE CHILD ARRIVED
20 SAFELY TO THE NEW PLACEMENT;
21 (e) A FRAMEWORK FOR A COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE
22 CASEWORKER'S POST-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH MUST
23 INCLUDE:
24 (I) PROVIDING A STATUS UPDATE ON THE CHILD TO THE PREVIOUS
25 PROVIDER, UNLESS THERE IS A SAFETY CONCERN IN PROVIDING A STATUS
26 UPDATE TO THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER, A PARTY OBJECTS TO SHARING
27 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, OR A COURT ORDER PROHIBITS THE RELEASE

1 OF INFORMATION TO THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER; AND

2 (II) COMMUNICATING WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER AND
3 PREVIOUS PROVIDER, IF REQUESTED BY THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER PRIOR TO
4 THE TRANSITION, TO DETERMINE HOW THE TRANSITION WENT AND IF THE
5 CURRENT PROVIDER OR PREVIOUS PROVIDER NEEDS ANY SUPPORT.

6 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT, WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES, SHALL
7 CREATE A TRAINING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACEMENT TRANSITION
8 PLANS THAT IS RECORDED AND MADE AVAILABLE ON A TRAINING SYSTEM
9 THAT CAN BE ACCESSED STATEWIDE. THE TRAINING MUST FOCUS ON
10 PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS AND ON INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LIVED
11 EXPERIENCE WITH PLACEMENT TRANSITIONS, INCLUDING AN EMPHASIS ON
12 INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPERIENCED PLACEMENT TRANSITIONS.

13 (b) (I) NEW COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS
14 MUST COMPLETE THE TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS
15 SECTION WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT AS A COUNTY
16 DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER.

17 (II) ALL COUNTY DEPARTMENT CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKERS
18 MAY COMPLETE THE TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS
19 SECTION EVERY THREE YEARS.

20 (c) A PROVIDER MAY COMPLETE THE TRAINING ON PLACEMENT
21 TRANSITION PLANS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND
22 MAY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR THE COUNTY
23 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-3-210.5 (1)(c) TO IMPROVE THE
24 PROVIDER'S SKILLS IN TRANSITIONING A CHILD IN THE PROVIDER'S CARE
25 FROM ONE PLACEMENT TO ANOTHER.

26 (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALTER STATE LAW CRITERIA THAT
27 DETERMINES PLACEMENT CHANGES FOR A CHILD OR THAT RETURNS A

1 CHILD TO A PARENT'S CUSTODY.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-213, **amend** (1)
3 introductory portion and (1)(a) as follows:

4 **19-3-213. Placement criteria.** (1) In ~~any~~ A case in which the
5 county department recommends placement out of the home for a child or
6 in which a child is in out-of-home placement, the court, the guardian ad
7 litem, the county department, ~~any~~ A CASA volunteer, and other parties
8 shall consider the best interests of the child and shall comply with the
9 following placement criteria:

10 (a) Prior to the change of placement of a child, the county
11 department shall, to the extent possible, notify the guardian ad litem or
12 counsel for youth, ~~any~~ A CASA volunteer, and other parties. If ~~any~~ A
13 party disagrees with the change of placement, the party may seek an
14 emergency hearing concerning the appropriate placement for ~~a~~ THE child.
15 In an emergency, the county department may proceed to make the change
16 of placement prior to ~~any~~ A requested hearing AND IS EXEMPT FROM
17 CREATING AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN, AS
18 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-3-213.5 (2)(a). ABSENT AN EMERGENCY
19 PLACEMENT CHANGE, PRIOR TO THE CHANGE OF PLACEMENT OF A CHILD,
20 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT
21 TRANSITION PLAN, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-3-213.5 (2)(a).

22 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
25 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
26 institutions.