



AB 1089 – IMPROVING THE REGIONAL CENTER TRANSFER PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

BACKGROUND

Many children in foster care face serious developmental delays and disabilities as a result of abuse, neglect, and prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol. California’s Regional Centers create individualized service plans for infants, children and youth to improve and overcome these conditions. Research indicates that consistent and timely implementation of these services and supports are critical if children are to benefit.

Unfortunately, these benefits are repeatedly delayed and disrupted when foster children, who are frequently relocated, must change regional centers. When these services stop for extended periods of time, children regress, caregivers struggle and the problems these children face intensify.

Foster children, who often lack individuals to advocate on their behalf, are especially impacted by the lack of transfer timelines because changes in placement can often happen quickly with little or no time to arrange for the transfer of services.

And for the youngest foster youth, those under the age of 3, who receive Early Intervention Services, a lengthy delay in services has the potential to reset the clock on any progress that may have been made up to that point.

EXISTING LAW

Current law does not include timelines to regulate the transfer of a foster youth’s case files between regional centers, nor are there timelines in place that regulate when services must begin following a transfer.

SOLUTION

AB 1089 specifies the transfer procedures and timelines that would apply when a foster child is moved between regional center catchment areas.

Specifically, AB 1089 requires the assigned county social worker or county to provide the sending regional center with a Notice of Relocation whenever a foster youth moves out of the regional center’s catchment area. The sending regional center must then send a Notice of Transfer to the receiving regional center as well as any records needed for the planning process. AB 1089 also requires the sending regional center shall make every reasonable effort to initiate services identified in the IPP/IFSP as soon as possible following the Notice of Transfer, but no later than 30 days.

If the 30 day timeline is not met, the regional center must report, in writing, to the court, county social worker, or probation officer what services are being provided and what steps are being taken to initiate services that are not yet in place. The sending regional center must continue to report to the court every 30 days until all services are in place.

AB 1089 puts procedures and timelines in place to protect vulnerable foster youth who need regional center services but lack a permanent advocate to ensure that services are initiated in a timely manner.

SUPPORT

- Advokids
- The Alliance for Children’s Rights
- Bellows Consulting
- California CASA Association
- California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School
- Children Now

- Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
- Disability Rights Legal Center
- Disability Rights California
- East Bay Children’s Law Offices
- Goodman and Bhutani, LLP
- Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)
- Legal Services for Children
- Mount Diablo Unified School District, Foster Youth Services
- National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)
- Public Counsel Law Center
- Redwood Children’s Services
- Seneca Family Agencies
- Special Needs Network
- University of San Diego School of Law, Children’s Advocacy Institute
- Woodland Community College Foster & Kinship Care Education
- Youth Law Center
- Zero to Three
- California Alliance of Child and Family Services
- The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
- California SEIU, Developmental Disabilities Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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OPPOSITION

- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- North Los Angeles County Regional Center
- San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center
- Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center

STATUS

The bill has been double referred the Senate Committee on Human Services and the Senate Judiciary Committee; the bill will be heard in Senate Human Services on June 10th.
