



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fourth Legislature, First Regular Session

REVISED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1391

kinship foster care stipend

Purpose

Requires the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to provide a monthly stipend of \$250 per child to a kinship foster care parent.

Background

Children who have been removed from their home and are in custody of the DCS are placed in temporary out-of-home care, commonly called foster care, with a goal of permanent placement established for each child. Statute requires the DCS to place a child in the least restrictive type of placement available, consistent with the best interests of the child. The order of preference for placement is as follows: 1) with a parent; 2) with a grandparent; 3) in kinship care with another member of the child's family including a person who has a significant relationship with the child; 4) in family foster care; 5) in therapeutic foster care; 6) in a group home; or 7) in a residential treatment facility ([A.R.S. § 8-514](#)).

The DCS offers a [kinship foster care stipend](#) (stipend) to all kinship foster care parents who have a child placed with them and whose income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Currently, the stipend is a monthly benefit of \$75 per child. A kinship foster care parent may become licensed as a foster parent to receive additional financial assistance and support services. When a kinship foster care parent becomes licensed as a foster parent, the individual is no longer eligible for the stipend.

S.B. 1391 increases the current monthly stipend for kinship foster care parents from \$75 to \$250 per child. According to the [Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#), there is an anticipated \$14.8 million fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Directs DCS to provide a monthly stipend of \$250 per child to a kinship foster care parent.
2. Makes conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Revisions

- Corrects fiscal impact statement.