

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

SENATE BILL 1315

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-514.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2018, CHAPTER 153, SECTION 3; REPEALING SECTION 8-514.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2018, CHAPTER 110, SECTION 2; RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE AND PLACEMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 8-514.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended
3 by Laws 2018, chapter 153, section 3, is amended to read:

4 8-514.03. Kinship foster care: requirements: investigation:
5 stipend

6 A. The department shall establish kinship foster care services for
7 a child who has been removed from the child's home and who is in the
8 custody of the department. ~~The placement of a child who is in the custody
9 of the department shall be determined by the best interests of the child.~~
10 THE PROGRAM SHALL PROMOTE THE PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD WITH THE CHILD'S
11 RELATIVE OR A PERSON WITH A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD FOR
12 KINSHIP FOSTER CARE.

13 B. A kinship foster care parent applicant who is not a licensed
14 foster care parent shall be at least eighteen years of age. The applicant
15 and each member of the applicant's household who is at least eighteen
16 years of age shall submit a full set of fingerprints to the department of
17 child safety for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal
18 records check pursuant to section 41-1750 and Public Law 92-544. The
19 department of public safety may exchange this fingerprint data with the
20 federal bureau of investigation. The department of child safety shall
21 determine if the applicant is able to meet the child's health and safety
22 needs by conducting one or more home visits and interviewing the
23 applicant. The department of child safety may interview other household
24 members, review the applicant's personal and professional references and
25 conduct department of child safety central registry checks.

26 C. If the department determines that a kinship foster care
27 placement is not in the best interest of the child, the department shall
28 provide written notification to the applicant within fifteen business
29 days. The notice shall include the specific reason for denial, the
30 applicant's right to appeal and the process for reviewing the decision.

31 D. A kinship foster care parent may be eligible to receive the
32 following financial services for the child:

33 1. Full foster care benefits, including payment if the kinship
34 foster care parent becomes a licensed foster care home.

35 2. Temporary assistance for needy families cash for a child only
36 case and supplemental financial support.

37 E. The department shall establish procedures for child welfare
38 workers to inform kinship foster care families about available financial
39 and nonfinancial services and eligibility requirements and shall assist
40 the families in completing the necessary application.

41 F. If a family declines to apply for financial services, the family
42 shall sign a statement indicating that the family declined services. The
43 statement does not prevent the family from making application in the
44 future. The worker shall provide a copy of the statement to the family.

1 G. The department shall provide nonfinancial services for a kinship
2 foster care parent through existing means or referral. Nonfinancial
3 services may include:

- 4 1. Family assessment.
- 5 2. Case management.
- 6 3. Child day care.
- 7 4. Housing search and relocation.
- 8 5. Parenting skills training.
- 9 6. Supportive intervention and guidance counseling.
- 10 7. Transportation.
- 11 8. Emergency services.
- 12 9. Parent aid services.
- 13 10. Respite services.

14 11. Additional services that the department determines are
15 necessary to meet the needs of the child and family.

16 H. ~~The department of child safety shall evaluate biannually the
17 performance of the kinship foster care program. On or before November 1,
18 the department shall submit a report to the speaker of the house of
19 representatives, the president of the senate and the governor and shall
20 provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. The report shall
21 contain the following information:~~

- 22 1. ~~The demographics and number of children placed with relative
caregivers.~~
- 23 2. ~~The demographics of kinship foster caregivers.~~
- 24 3. ~~The number of relative children per kinship foster care family.~~
- 25 4. ~~The department's success at maintaining kinship foster care
placements.~~
- 26 5. ~~The type of services provided to kinship foster care families.~~
- 27 6. ~~The cost of services provided to kinship foster care families
compared to the cost of out-of-home placements.~~
- 28 7. ~~Recommendations regarding program improvement.~~

32 H. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PARENT WITH A
33 STIPEND OF \$250 PER MONTH FOR EACH CHILD PLACED WITH THE FOSTER CARE
34 PARENT.

35 Sec. 2. Repeal

36 Section 8-514.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by Laws 2018,
37 chapter 110, section 2, is repealed.