

Senate Engrossed

kinship foster care stipend; increase

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1602

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-514.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO KINSHIP
FOSTER CARE.

(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, is amended
3 to read:

4 8-514.03. Kinship foster care; requirements; investigation

5 A. The department shall establish kinship foster care services for
6 a child who has been removed from the child's home and who is in the
7 custody of the department. The program shall promote the placement of the
8 child with the child's relative or a person with a significant
9 relationship with the child for kinship foster care.

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

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

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

30 1. Full foster care benefits, including payment if the kinship
31 foster care parent becomes a licensed foster care home or if the kinship
32 foster care parent obtains a restricted license pursuant to section 8-509,
33 subsection C.

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

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

40 F. If a family declines to apply for financial services, the family
41 shall sign a statement indicating that the family declined services. The
42 statement does not prevent the family from ~~making application~~ **APPLYING FOR**
43 **FINANCIAL SERVICES** in the future. The worker shall provide a copy of the
44 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 SHALL PROVIDE A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PARENT WITH A
17 MONTHLY STIPEND FOR EACH CHILD WHO IS PLACED WITH THE KINSHIP FOSTER CARE
18 PARENT. THE STIPEND SHALL BE AT LEAST:

- 19 1. \$400 FROM AND AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027.
- 20 2. \$500 FROM AND AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028.
- 21 3. \$600 FROM AND AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2028.