

Senate Engrossed

kinship foster care; stipend

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1544

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 8-514.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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, is amended
3 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 program shall promote the placement of the
9 child with the child's relative or a person with a significant
10 relationship with the child for kinship foster care.

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

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

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

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

35 2. Temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance payments
36 for a child only 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 necessary
15 to meet the needs of the child and family.
- 16 H. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE PARENT WITH A
17 STIPEND OF \$600 PER MONTH FOR EACH CHILD PLACED WITH THE FOSTER CARE
18 PARENT.