



AB1192 – Notifying Abuse in Foster Care

PURPOSE

Assembly Bill 1192 strengthens protections for children in foster care by requiring the notification of reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect in foster homes to be extended to relevant parties. Transparency in communication is vital to protecting vulnerable children and ensure accountability within the foster care system.

BACKGROUND

Currently, only lawyers of the children being abused are notified of allegations of abuse or neglect. This leaves a gap in reporting requirements when providing information, causing foster youth to continue being vulnerable to abuse or neglect. There isn't a process or requirement to provide notice to the child's parents or the attorneys of other children placed in the same home to receive notice of reasonable suspicion of allegations of abuse or neglect.

Every year, 68,000 children move in and out of foster homes in California, with more than half of foster youth being in Southern California¹. In Los Angeles County, general neglect made up 39.2% of referrals to foster home, with 19.4% being at risk due to their sibling being abused, and 15.6% being physically abused².

There is a need for effective interventions to address problems that foster children face, including transparency in reporting allegations of child abuse in foster homes.

Attorneys cannot take action to ensure the child's safety and protection if they are not notified of the abuse occurring. This negates the purpose of

moving children to foster homes as they may still be susceptible to abuse or neglect.

EXISTING LAW

Penal Code Section 11166.1 requires social service agencies to notify children's attorneys when there is reasonable suspicion that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect.

Penal Code Section 11166 specifies that mandated reporters who reasonably suspect child abuse or neglect must report it within 36 hours. With this, attorneys representing a parent or guardian of the child must receive a copy of the report.

SOLUTION

AB 1192 will require child welfare agencies to notify parents or legal guardians of allegations of abuse or neglect of a child in a foster home. It ensures that parents or guardians, as well as attorneys representing other children in the same home, are given notice. This bill specifically states that it does not apply to parents whose rights have been terminated.

SUPPORT

Children's Law Center (Sponsor)
Dependency Legal Services (Co-Sponsor)
Children's Advocacy Institute at UC San Diego
School of Law (Co-Sponsor)

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[How Many Kids are in Foster Care? | Children's Bureau](#)¹

[DCFS Factsheet Summary-PDF](#)²