



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 336
[2009 Assembly Bill 823]

Foster Parent Training

Under *current law*, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required to promulgate administrative rules requiring all foster parents to successfully complete training in the care and support needs of children who are placed in foster care.

2009 Wisconsin Act 336 provides that the training must be completed on an ongoing basis, as determined by DCF. The Act requires the training to include all of the following:

- Parenting skills, including child development; infant care, if appropriate; the effects of trauma on children; communicating with children in an age-appropriate manner; and recognizing issues, such as drug use or addiction or attachment disorder.
- For foster parents caring for children 11 years of age or older, teaching and encouraging independent living skills, including budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote the child's long-term economic independence and well-being.
- Issues that may confront foster parents, in general, and that may confront the foster parents of children with special needs.
- Child abuse and neglect prevention.
- The proper use of foster care payments.
- The availability of resources for foster parents in the local community.
- Other topics, as determined by DCF.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

Under the Act, the training must be available to kinship care relatives, upon the request of the kinship care relative.

The Act provides that, for a foster parent receiving an initial license, the training must be completed before the first child is placed with the foster parent.

Effective date: Act 336 takes effect on May 27, 2010.

Prepared by: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

May 24, 2010

AS:ksm