



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 143
[2015 Senate Bill 253]

**Subsidized Guardianship
Payments**

Wisconsin law authorizes a guardian of a child in need of protection or services to receive monthly subsidized guardianship payments, provided that certain conditions are met. One of the conditions, under prior law, was that the guardian must be a relative of the child or a person who has a significant emotional relationship with the child and who, prior to the child's placement in out-of-home care, had an existing relationship with the child that is similar to a familial relationship.

2015 Wisconsin Act 143 (the Act) expands the scope of individuals who are eligible to serve as such a guardian. The Act provides that the guardian must be a relative of the child or a person who has a significant emotional relationship with the child **or the child's family** and who, prior to the child's placement in out-of-home care, had an existing relationship with the child **or the child's family** that is similar to a familial relationship.

In addition, the Act provides that a guardian may include a person who has a significant emotional relationship with the child or the child's family and who, during the child's placement in out-of-home care, developed a relationship with the child or the child's family that is similar to a familial relationship. In order to qualify, the person must also meet conditions specified in rules required to be promulgated by the Department of Children and Families.

Effective date: February 6, 2016

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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.wisconsin.gov>.