



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 166
[2015 Senate Bill 202]

Kinship Care Payments

Wisconsin law authorizes a child to be placed with a relative, in certain cases, rather than being placed in a foster home or other type of out-of-home placement. In that case, a relative of the child who provides care and maintenance for the child (i.e., a kinship care relative) may qualify for monthly kinship care payments. The statutes require a background investigation to determine if the kinship care relative, or an employee or co-resident who would have regular contact with the child, has any arrests or convictions that could adversely affect the child or the kinship care relative's ability to care for the child. A person who is denied kinship care payments based on an arrest or conviction record may request a review of that decision by the director of the county department, or, in Milwaukee County, a review by a person designated by the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

2015 Wisconsin Act 166 (the Act) applies to a person who is denied kinship care payments based on an arrest or conviction record, requests a review by the appropriate director or designee, and does not agree with the outcome of the review. The Act provides that the person may petition DCF for a hearing on the outcome of the review, and DCF must give the petitioner an opportunity for a fair hearing.

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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>.