

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 48.67 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** training for foster parents.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This bill draft was prepared for the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families.

This bill draft requires that all foster parents and treatment foster parents complete training in the care and support needs of foster care children. The training must be completed before the first child is placed with a foster parent or treatment foster parent and on an ongoing basis. In addition, the training must be available to kinship care relatives.

The training must include training in parenting skills; teaching and encouraging independent living skills; issues that may confront foster parents or treatment foster parents; child abuse and neglect prevention; the proper use of foster care payments; and the availability of resources for foster parents in the local community. The Department of Children and Families is required to monitor compliance with the training requirements and promulgate rules prescribing the training.

2 **SECTION 1.** 48.67 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

3 48.67 (4) That all foster parents and treatment foster parents successfully complete  
4 training in the care and support needs of children who are placed in foster care or treatment  
5 foster care. The training shall be completed before the first child is placed with a foster parent  
6 or treatment foster parent and on an ongoing basis, as determined by the department. The  
7 training shall be available to a kinship care relative, as defined in s. 48.40 (1m), upon request.  
8 The department shall monitor compliance with this subsection and shall promulgate rules  
9 prescribing the training that is required under this subsection, including training in all of the  
10 following:

**COMMENT:** This bill draft provides that the training must be available to kinship care relatives. “Kinship care relative” means a relative, other

than a parent, receiving payments for providing care and maintenance for a child. [s. 48.40 (1m), Stats.] Does this provision and the definition of “kinship care relative” satisfy the committee’s intent?

1 (a) Parenting skills, including child development; infant care, if appropriate; the effects  
2 of trauma on children; communicating with children in an age-appropriate manner; and  
3 recognizing issues such as drug use or addiction or attachment disorder.

4 (b) For foster parents or treatment foster parents caring for children age 11 or older,  
5 teaching and encouraging independent living skills in children who are placed in foster care  
6 or treatment foster care, including budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote  
7 the child’s long-term economic independence and well-being.

8 (c) Issues that may confront foster parents or treatment foster parents, in general, and  
9 that may confront foster parents or treatment foster parents of special needs children.

10 (d) Child abuse and neglect prevention.

11 (e) Proper use of foster care payments.

12 (f) Availability of resources for foster parents in the local community.

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(END)