



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

Memo No. 3

TO: MEMBERS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION AND DISSOLUTION

FROM: Margit Kelley, Staff Attorney

RE: Specific Recommendations from the Department of Children and Families to Revise Bill Drafts

DATE: December 12, 2014

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has suggested a number of specific language revisions to three of the bill drafts that are before the committee for the final meeting on December 16, 2014. The specific suggestions are relayed below, with the language shown in bold typeface and an underscore or strikethrough.

This listing includes only specific, line item suggestions made by DCF, and does not include any policy comments or suggestions for substantive revisions that DCF may or may not have for the various drafts that are before the committee.

WLC: 0014/2, Adoption Jurisdiction; Home Study

- On page 5, line 5, revise the last sentence as follows:

The court shall order one of the following to conduct **or supplement** the investigation:...

- On page 5, revise line 18, through page 6, line 1, as follows:

of the petitioner's mental health or alcohol or other drug use by a person who is not **employed in the unit of the agency that is making the investigation or who is not** an employee of the agency.

WLC: 0029/2, Adoption Preparation Training

- On page 3, lines 1 through 3, revise the final sentence as follows:

If the proposed adoptive parent resides in this state, but the agency that negotiated or arranged placement of the child is governed by another state, he or she may meet this requirement by obtaining equivalent preparation that is provided by that agency **and is approved by the department.**
- On page 3, revise lines 14 through 17 and the Note following line 17 as follows:

48.84 (2) (b) An in-person meeting, either individually or in a group, ~~with a representative of a state-funded postadoption resource center~~ to describe the support and services available to the adoptive family after the adoption is granted, which may be included in the in-person hours required under sub. (2g) (a).

Note: This Section requires the preadoptive training to include ~~an in-person meeting with a representative of one of the state's PARCs~~ **a description of postadoption support and services that are available to the family, which must be delivered in person.**
- On page 4, revise the last sentence of the Note following line 9 as follows:

This provision does not apply to an adoption by a ~~relative or stepparent,~~ **or by a relative in certain circumstances.**
- On page 4, revise the Note following line 14 as follows:

This Section requires a person who is providing the preadoptive training to also offer postadoption training in all cases other than an adoption by a ~~relative or~~ stepparent, **or by a relative in certain circumstances.**

WLC: 0031/2, Tracking When an Adopted Child Enters the Child Welfare System

- Add a section requiring DCF to report to the Legislature on the number of children who enter the child welfare system after adoption or guardianship has been granted, as follows:

Create s. 48.555. Annual Report of Jurisdiction after Adoption or Guardianship. Beginning on December 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) that specifies the number of children during the preceding calendar year who entered out-of-home care under the placement and care responsibility of a county department or the department under ch. 48 or 938 after finalization of an adoption or guardianship. The report may include information concerning the

length of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age of the child at the time of the prior adoption or guardianship, the age at which the child subsequently entered such out-of-home care, the type of agency involved in making the prior adoptive or guardianship placement, and any other factors determined necessary to better understand factors associated with a child entering such out-of-home care after finalization of an adoption or guardianship.

Note: This Section requires the Department of Children and Families to submit an annual report to the Legislature, beginning on December 31, 2017, regarding the number of children who have previously been adopted or given a guardian who enter out-of-home care in the child welfare or juvenile justice system during the preceding calendar year. The report may include information on the circumstances of the child's adoption or guardianship, and any other aspects associated with the child in order to better understand how such children may return to out-of-home care in the child welfare or juvenile justice system.

MSK:jal