

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 25-0475.01 Alana Rosen x2606

**HOUSE BILL 25-1097**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME**  
102                    **PLACEMENTS IN FAMILY-BASED SETTINGS THROUGH THE**  
103                    **CREATION OF PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the department of human services (department) to develop and adopt a placement transition plan (plan) template that outlines how a county or district department of human or social services (county department) will transition a child from one out-of-home placement in a foster care home, kinship foster care home, or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

non-certified kinship care home (placement) to another or back to the child's home. The purpose of the plan is to create consistency in transitioning children from one placement to another and to prevent children from experiencing unnecessary or abrupt placement changes that affect their well-being or sense of security.

The plan, at a minimum, must include:

- A determination of pre-transition logistics to adequately prepare for the child's new placement;
- A framework for pre-transition communications between the county department caseworker and individuals who are directly involved in the transition to ensure the transition is child-centered, trauma-informed, and in compliance with the rights of children and youth in foster care;
- A timeline to transition the child to a new placement;
- A plan to physically move the child to the new placement; and
- A framework for post-transition communications.

The department, within existing resources, shall create a training on the importance of plans that is recorded and made available on a training system that can be accessed statewide. The training must focus on plans and individuals who have lived experience with placement transitions.

Newly employed county caseworkers must complete the training within the first year of employment as a county caseworker. All caseworkers must complete this training every 3 years. A foster care, kinship foster care, or non-certified kinship care provider (provider) may complete the training and may receive support from the department or the county department to improve the provider's skills in transitioning a child in the provider's care from one placement to another.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-3-213.5 as  
3 follows:

4           **19-3-213.5. Placement transition plans - out-of-home**  
5 **placements in family-based settings - training - definitions.** (1) AS  
6 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7           (a) "PLACEMENT" MEANS PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER CARE HOME OR  
8 A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME, AS BOTH ARE DEFINED IN SECTION

1 26-6-903, OR A NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOME.

2 (b) "PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN" MEANS A PLAN DEVELOPED  
3 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO PREVENT CHILDREN  
4 IN PLACEMENTS IN FOSTER CARE HOMES, KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOMES, OR  
5 NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOMES FROM EXPERIENCING UNNECESSARY  
6 OR ABRUPT PLACEMENT CHANGES AFTER A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY  
7 THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, BY THE COURT, OR BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
8 PARTIES FOR A CHANGE OF PLACEMENT.

9 (c) "PROVIDER" MEANS A FOSTER CARE PARENT OR A RELATIVE OR  
10 KIN WHO PROVIDES KINSHIP FOSTER CARE AND WHO IS CERTIFIED TO  
11 OPERATE A KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6-910.  
12 "PROVIDER" ALSO INCLUDES A RELATIVE OR KIN WHO PROVIDES  
13 NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-6-903, TO A  
14 CHILD WHO IS IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

15 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
16 DEVELOP AND ADOPT A PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN TEMPLATE THAT  
17 OUTLINES HOW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT WILL TRANSITION A CHILD  
18 FROM ONE PLACEMENT TO ANOTHER AND THAT WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP  
19 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS WHEN A DECISION HAS BEEN  
20 MADE BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, BY THE COURT, OR BY AGREEMENT  
21 BETWEEN PARTIES TO MOVE THE CHILD TO A NEW PLACEMENT. THE  
22 PURPOSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN IS TO CREATE  
23 CONSISTENCY IN TRANSITIONING CHILDREN FROM ONE PLACEMENT TO  
24 ANOTHER AND TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM EXPERIENCING UNNECESSARY  
25 OR ABRUPT PLACEMENT CHANGES THAT AFFECT THEIR WELL-BEING OR  
26 SENSE OF SECURITY. AN INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN MUST  
27 PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD WHILE CONSIDERING THE NEEDS OF

1 THE PARENTS, CURRENT PROVIDERS, AND FUTURE PROVIDERS.

2 (b) (I) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT CASEWORKER SHALL CREATE AN  
3 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN FOR A CHILD ANY TIME THE  
4 CHILD IS MOVED FROM ONE PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER CARE HOME, KINSHIP  
5 FOSTER CARE HOME, OR NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOME TO ANOTHER  
6 OR IS MOVED FROM ANY PLACEMENT BACK TO THE CHILD'S HOME.

7 (II) THE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN MUST NOT BE  
8 USED TO SLOW DOWN THE RETURN OF A CHILD TO THE CHILD'S HOME.

9 (c) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY INDICATE IN TRAILS, AS  
10 DEFINED IN SECTION 26-5-118 (1), THAT A PLAN WAS CREATED.

11 (d) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT'S INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION  
12 PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION DOES  
13 NOT OVERRIDE A COURT ORDER FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A CHILD.

14 (3) AN INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN, AT A MINIMUM,  
15 MUST INCLUDE:

16 (a) A DETERMINATION OF PRE-TRANSITION LOGISTICS TO  
17 ADEQUATELY PREPARE FOR THE CHILD'S NEW PLACEMENT, INCLUDING, BUT  
18 NOT LIMITED TO:

19 (I) THE REASONS FOR A PLACEMENT CHANGE;

20 (II) THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENT CHANGES THE CHILD HAS  
21 ALREADY EXPERIENCED;

22 (III) THE TIME FRAME FOR THE IMPENDING PLACEMENT CHANGE;

23 (IV) THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHILD TO VISIT OR CONTACT THE  
24 FUTURE PROVIDER PRIOR TO THE TRANSITION;

25 (V) THE OPPORTUNITIES THE CHILD MAY HAVE TO MAINTAIN  
26 CONTACT WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH  
27 WHOM THE CHILD HAS A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP;

1 (VI) HOW THE TRANSITION WILL BE MANAGED, INCLUDING, BUT  
2 NOT LIMITED TO:

3 (A) ENSURING THE CHILD HAS THEIR POSSESSIONS;

4 (B) PROVIDING RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS TO THE FUTURE  
5 PROVIDER; AND

6 (C) SHARING INFORMATION BETWEEN THE CURRENT PROVIDER  
7 AND THE FUTURE PROVIDER;

8 (VII) WHETHER THE CHILD WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY  
9 CURRENT HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS, MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, AND  
10 SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AND, IF NOT, WHO WILL PROVIDE THESE  
11 SERVICES AND HOW THE TRANSITION WILL BE MANAGED TO ENSURE  
12 CONTINUITY OF CARE;

13 (VIII) HOW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT CASEWORKER PLANS TO  
14 ENSURE THE PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED AS DESIGNED  
15 AND HOW ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS WILL OCCUR AND BE  
16 COMMUNICATED;

17 (IX) WHO MAY COMMUNICATE WITH THE CHILD ABOUT THE  
18 TRANSITION AND HOW COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHILD REGARDING THE  
19 TRANSITION WILL BE HANDLED; AND

20 (X) WHO MAY COMMUNICATE TO THE CURRENT PROVIDER OR  
21 FUTURE PROVIDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVIDERS DO NOT DISPARAGE  
22 ANY OF THE CHILD'S PREVIOUS, CURRENT, OR FUTURE PROVIDERS;

23 (b) A FRAMEWORK FOR PRE-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS  
24 BETWEEN THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT CASEWORKER AND INDIVIDUALS WHO  
25 ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION TO ENSURE THE TRANSITION  
26 IS CHILD-CENTERED, TRAUMA-INFORMED, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
27 RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, AS DESCRIBED IN

1 SECTION 19-7-101. THE INDIVIDUALS WHO MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE  
2 PRE-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, INCLUDE:

- 3 (I) THE CHILD'S PARENT;
- 4 (II) THE CHILD'S PROVIDER;
- 5 (III) THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY;
- 6 (IV) THE COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE, IF THE CHILD HAS  
7 BEEN APPOINTED ONE;
- 8 (V) THE CHILD, IF THE CHILD IS TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER;
- 9 (VI) INDIVIDUALS IMPORTANT TO THE CHILD WHO WILL BE  
10 INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION OR MAY BE HELPFUL IN MAKING THE  
11 TRANSITION SUCCESSFUL; AND
- 12 (VII) CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS, AS APPROPRIATE. SERVICE  
13 PROVIDERS MAY INCLUDE MEDICAL PROVIDERS, MENTAL HEALTH  
14 PROVIDERS, OR EDUCATORS.

15 (c) A TIMELINE TO TRANSITION THE CHILD TO A NEW PLACEMENT,  
16 WHICH MUST INCLUDE:

- 17 (I) NOTIFYING THE CHILD, CURRENT PROVIDER, AND FUTURE  
18 PROVIDER AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE MOVE SO THE CHILD MAY  
19 SPEND TIME WITH THE FUTURE PROVIDER OR SPEND TIME WITH SERVICE  
20 PROVIDERS, SCHOOL SUPPORTS, OR OTHER CONNECTIONS WHO MAY BE  
21 LOST AFTER THE MOVE; AND
- 22 (II) ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE TIMELINE, IF NECESSARY,  
23 THAT ALLOWS A CHILD TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY IF:
  - 24 (A) THERE ARE SAFETY CONCERNS FOR THE CHILD'S PHYSICAL OR  
25 EMOTIONAL SAFETY IN THE CURRENT PLACEMENT;
  - 26 (B) THE CURRENT PROVIDER GIVES NOTICE THAT THEY CAN NO  
27 LONGER CARE FOR THE CHILD AND THE TRANSITION TIMELINE MUST BE

1 SHORTENED;

2 (C) THE CHILD REQUESTS AN IMMEDIATE MOVE TO A NEW  
3 PLACEMENT; OR

4 (D) THE COURT ORDERS A CHANGE IN PLACEMENT TO OCCUR  
5 SOONER THAN A TRANSITION PLAN WOULD ALLOW;

6 (d) A PLAN TO PHYSICALLY MOVE THE CHILD TO THE NEW  
7 PLACEMENT, WHICH MUST INCLUDE:

8 (I) MOVING THE CHILD TO THE NEW PLACEMENT BY SOMEONE  
9 KNOWN TO THE CHILD, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE; AND

10 (II) NOTIFYING THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER THAT THE CHILD ARRIVED  
11 SAFELY TO THE NEW PLACEMENT;

12 (e) A FRAMEWORK FOR POST-TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS,  
13 WHICH MUST INCLUDE:

14 (I) PROVIDING A STATUS UPDATE ON THE CHILD TO THE PREVIOUS  
15 PROVIDER WITHIN A WEEK AFTER THE TRANSITION, UNLESS THERE IS A  
16 SAFETY CONCERN IN PROVIDING A STATUS UPDATE TO THE PREVIOUS  
17 PROVIDER, A PARTY OBJECTS TO SHARING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, OR  
18 A COURT ORDER PROHIBITS THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE  
19 PREVIOUS PROVIDER; AND

20 (II) COMMUNICATING WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER AND  
21 PREVIOUS PROVIDER, IF REQUESTED BY THE PREVIOUS PROVIDER PRIOR TO  
22 THE TRANSITION, TO DETERMINE HOW THE TRANSITION WENT AND IF THE  
23 CURRENT PROVIDER OR PREVIOUS PROVIDER NEEDS ANY SUPPORT WITHIN  
24 A WEEK AFTER THE TRANSITION.

25 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT, WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES, SHALL  
26 CREATE A TRAINING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACEMENT TRANSITION  
27 PLANS THAT IS RECORDED AND MADE AVAILABLE ON A TRAINING SYSTEM

1 THAT CAN BE ACCESSED STATEWIDE. THE TRAINING MUST FOCUS ON  
2 PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS AND ON INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LIVED  
3 EXPERIENCE WITH PLACEMENT TRANSITIONS.

4 (b)(I) NEWLY EMPLOYED COUNTY CASEWORKERS MUST COMPLETE  
5 THE TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN  
6 THE FIRST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT AS A COUNTY CASEWORKER.

7 (II) ALL COUNTY CASEWORKERS MUST COMPLETE THE TRAINING  
8 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION EVERY THREE YEARS.

9 (c) A PROVIDER MAY COMPLETE THE TRAINING ON PLACEMENT  
10 TRANSITION PLANS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND  
11 MAY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR THE COUNTY  
12 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-3-210.5 (1)(c) TO IMPROVE THE  
13 PROVIDER'S SKILLS IN TRANSITIONING A CHILD IN THE PROVIDER'S CARE  
14 FROM ONE PLACEMENT TO ANOTHER.

15 (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALTER STATE LAW CRITERIA THAT  
16 DETERMINES PLACEMENT CHANGES FOR A CHILD OR THAT RETURNS A  
17 CHILD TO A PARENT'S CUSTODY.

18 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-213, **amend** (1)  
19 introductory portion and (1)(a) as follows:

20 **19-3-213. Placement criteria.** (1) In ~~any~~ A case in which the  
21 county department recommends placement out of the home for a child or  
22 in which a child is in out-of-home placement, the court, the guardian ad  
23 litem, the county department, ~~any~~ A CASA volunteer, and other parties  
24 shall consider the best interests of the child and shall comply with the  
25 following placement criteria:

26 (a) Prior to the change of placement of a child, the county  
27 department shall, to the extent possible, notify the guardian ad litem or



1 counsel for youth, ~~any~~ A CASA volunteer, and other parties. If ~~any~~ A  
2 party disagrees with the change of placement, the party may seek an  
3 emergency hearing concerning the appropriate placement for ~~a~~ THE child.  
4 In an emergency, the county department may proceed to make the change  
5 of placement prior to ~~any~~ A requested hearing. PRIOR TO THE CHANGE OF  
6 PLACEMENT OF A CHILD, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AN  
7 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
8 19-3-213.5 (2)(b), FOR A CHANGE OF PLACEMENT OF A CHILD FROM A  
9 FOSTER CARE HOME, KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME, OR NON-CERTIFIED  
10 KINSHIP CARE HOME TO ANOTHER, OR A MOVE FROM A FOSTER CARE HOME,  
11 KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOME, OR NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE HOME TO  
12 THE CHILD'S HOME.

13 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
14 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
16 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
17 institutions.