

PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLANS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HB25-1097

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This bill is intended to prevent children in foster care from experiencing unnecessary or abrupt placement changes that negatively impact their well-being or sense of security.

WHY THIS BILL IS NEEDED:

- The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) most recent report finds that as of September 2024 there were 4,198 children in the Colorado foster care system.
- CDHS data reports there were 2481 transitions in the year 2024 alone.
- A study by the National Institutes of Health found that the average foster child will experience eight transitions while in foster care.
- Based on a survey conducted of Adams County foster parents only 25 percent of respondents felt they were an active part of the transition plan when a child moved.
- Currently CDHS does not provide specific guidance on how to transition children in foster care, and there is a wide variation between counties on how transitions are handled.
- A study on PTSD in foster care cited that 90 percent of kids who enter foster care have experienced a traumatic event in their lives.

WHAT THIS BILL WILL DO:

- Requires CDHS to develop and adopt a placement transition plan template for counties to use in the transition of a child from one placement to another.
- The plan must include:
 - Determination of pre-transition logistics
 - A framework for pre-transition communications between the county department and the individuals directly involved in the transition, including the child.
(Consistent with the Foster Youth Bill of Rights)
 - A timeline to transition the child
 - A framework for post-transition communications
 - Training for caseworkers and foster and kinship parents about the placement transition plan requirements. The training must include individuals with lived experience.

SUPPORTED BY:

*foster*source



"I moved nine times, and I was never allowed to collect my belongings. Once, they were left in the front yard and I had to move my stuff alone."

- CO Former Foster Youth

"My life was constantly upended and never had a say in where I was going let alone how it happened."

- CO Former Foster Youth

"It was a long term placement. I got a text message on Friday saying they would pick him up Monday at 9AM as they found kin. I made a photo album and wrote a 4-5 page letter telling the grandma all about him. Things he likes and dislikes, his favorite foods, music and how wonderful he is. Grandma does not speak English, so I wrote it entirely in Spanish. The team assured me that Monday they'd pass the entire box of things to the grandma. I found out roughly a year later that she received a few photos, not his favorite lovey, and not the letter." - CO Foster Parent

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