



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 296

LCO No. 1343

* SB00296KIDHS_031010 *

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING VISITATION BETWEEN A PARENT AND A CHILD IN CASES INVOLVING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-10a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that a
4 child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to
5 an order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided
6 visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise
7 ordered by the court.

8 (b) The commissioner shall ensure that such child's visits with his or
9 her parents shall occur as frequently as reasonably possible, based
10 upon consideration of the best interests of the child, including the age
11 and developmental level of the child, and shall be sufficient in number
12 and duration to ensure continuation of the relationship.

13 (c) If such child has an existing relationship with a sibling and is
14 separated from such sibling as a result of intervention by the

15 commissioner including, but not limited to, placement in a foster home
16 or in the home of a relative, the commissioner shall, based upon
17 consideration of the best interests of the child, ensure that such child
18 has access to and visitation rights with such sibling throughout the
19 duration of such placement. In determining the number, frequency
20 and duration of such visits, the commissioner shall consider the best
21 interests of each sibling, given each child's age and developmental
22 level and the continuation of the sibling relationship.

23 (d) The commissioner shall include in each child's plan of treatment
24 information relating to the factors considered in making visitation
25 determinations pursuant to this section. If a permanency plan includes
26 reunification with a parent, the plan shall provide for visits at least
27 once a week at a designated place. If the commissioner determines that
28 such visits are not in the best interests of the child or that the number,
29 frequency or duration of the visits requested by the child's attorney or
30 guardian ad litem is not in the best interests of the child, the
31 commissioner shall include the reasons for such determination in the
32 child's plan of treatment. Visits with a parent shall not be suspended,
33 except in an emergency, unless the commissioner conducts a hearing
34 on such suspension.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2010	17a-10a

KID

Joint Favorable C/R

HS