



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 359

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO RELATIVES OF A PERSON WHOSE DEATH WAS CAUSED BY INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-101m of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Immediately upon being informed of an intimate partner
4 homicide involving the parents of a child, the Commissioner of Children
5 and Families shall assign an intimate partner violence specialist,
6 employed by the department to the matter. The intimate partner
7 violence specialist shall exercise due diligence to identify all adult
8 grandparents and other adult relatives of the child, including any adult
9 relatives suggested by the grandparents, subject to exceptions due to
10 family or domestic violence, who could potentially care for the child of
11 the deceased parent. Not later than seven days after being assigned to
12 the matter, the intimate partner violence specialist shall provide a list
13 containing pertinent identifying information of all adult relatives who
14 potentially could care for the child of the deceased parent to the
15 commissioner. The commissioner shall thereafter provide written
16 materials to the identified adult relatives who could potentially care for
17 the child of the deceased parent that (1) explain the options that any
18 such relative has under federal, state and local law to participate in the
19 care and placement of the child, including, but not limited to,

20 information describing the process for filing a petition in the Probate
21 Court seeking guardianship or custody of the child; (2) describe the
22 requirements (A) to obtain a foster care license pursuant to section 17a-
23 114, and (B) for additional services and supports that are available for
24 children placed in such a home; and (3) describe the subsidized
25 guardianship program under section 17a-126, including (A) eligibility
26 requirements, (B) the process for applying to the program, and (C)
27 financial assistance available under the program.

28 (b) Immediately upon the removal of a child from the custody of the
29 child's parent or guardian pursuant to subsection (e) of section 17a-101g
30 or section 46b-129, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall
31 exercise due diligence to identify all adult grandparents and other adult
32 relatives of the child, including any adult relatives suggested by the
33 parents, subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence. Not
34 later than thirty days after the removal, the commissioner shall provide
35 such grandparents and other relatives with notice that (1) the child has
36 been or is being removed from the custody of the child's parent or
37 guardian; (2) explains the options that the relative has under federal,
38 state and local law to participate in the care and placement of the child,
39 including any options that may be lost by failing to respond to the
40 notice; (3) describes the requirements (A) to obtain a foster care license
41 pursuant to section 17a-114, and (B) for additional services and supports
42 that are available for children placed in such a home; and (4) describes
43 the subsidized guardianship program under section 17a-126, including
44 (A) eligibility requirements, (B) the process for applying to the program,
45 and (C) financial assistance available under the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	17a-101m

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Subsec. (a), references to "or children" and "minor" child were deleted for internal consistency with the provisions of Subsec. (b).

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*