



Legislative Proposals 2019

1. Improving the efficacy of the child and family team (CFT) process

Issue: A primary vision of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) was that decision-making for placement and services would be driven by the family-centered CFT process. Over the past 3 years of implementation, gaps in the process have been identified by youth, caregivers, relatives and attorneys.

Proposal: Ensure key CFT participants receive proper notice and information; enable the court to consider CFT recommendations when making case plan orders; require a neutral facilitator when appropriate; and clarify confidentiality provisions.

2. Clarify the law with respect to relative placement

Issue: There are ambiguities in current law regarding the relative preference at different stages of a dependency court case, and the process that must be followed upon a relative placement request.

Proposal: Establish clear processes and court procedures for relative placement requests.

3. Protecting sensitive information

Issue: Recent changes in statute encourage information sharing between youth in foster care and their social workers to improve case planning. Unless already protected by confidentiality laws, certain sensitive information – such as gender identify and immigration status – can be disclosed to the court and all parties. This can be detrimental and can prevent children from accessing necessary services.

Proposal: Allow a party to request that sensitive information be kept confidential in a juvenile case file.

4. Access to Vital Documents (Assemblymember Eggman)

Issue: Transition age youth in foster care face obstacles accessing vital documents, which can impact their ability to access financial aid, housing, employment and other supports and services.

Proposal: Modify existing law to ensure the timely provision of important documentation.

5. Extended Foster Care (Assemblymember Gipson, co-sponsors: Alliance for Children's Rights and Tipping Point):

Issue: Current law unjustly deprives a small subset of youth who experienced foster care as minors from accessing the supports and services of extended foster care.

Proposal: Eliminate barriers to ensure that youth are able to access extended foster care as intended.



Budget Proposals 2019

1. Dependency Counsel Funding

Issue: Funding for attorneys who represent parents and children in child abuse and neglect cases (dependency counsel) lags far behind need. While recent allocations have helped to alleviate the ongoing caseload crisis, legal service organizations still struggle to fulfill the state's promise to children and families. High-quality legal representation provides an essential check and balance against unnecessary family separation and ensures that at risk children, including those who may remain in foster care for many years, get the services and interventions they need and that the law requires.

Proposal: Obtain full funding of \$207 million to reduce caseloads to the recommended limit, as established by Judicial Council.

2. Funding for mandated training on human trafficking for law enforcement

Issue: AB 2992 (Daly 2018) required Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to develop a training on human trafficking including the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). However, there was not language to ensure the training is provided to law enforcement statewide.

Proposal: Obtain funding to enable POST to include this training in the Academy curriculum as well as mandate continuing education for officers.

Please contact Sue Abrams, Policy Director, at 323-980-1552 or abramss@clccal.org for additional information or if you have any further questions.