

A decorative L-shaped line in a brownish-gold color, starting from the top left and extending down and then right.

Youth Law Center Bills

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A decorative L-shaped line in a brownish-gold color, starting from the bottom right and extending left and then up.

AB 2767



- Authored by Assemblymember Ahrens
- Organizational Sponsor: Youth Law Center

Challenges the Bill Aims to Address

- Sometimes relatives and kin are not identified as early as possible, missing out on the opportunity for the first placement to be with kin.
- There is ambiguity in the law about when family finding can and should begin, resulting in inconsistency across the state and missed opportunities.
- There is not clarity on how laws related to the confidential nature of the child and family's information apply to the family notification and finding requirements.

The Bill



- Family finding should occur within 30 days of being accepted for service or removal, whichever comes first.
- Clarifies that family finding should be ongoing until the case is closed, ordered by the court, there is evidence that continuation poses a threat to the child, or the child is in a pre-adoptive placement and adoption proceedings have begun.
 - If family finding is paused, it should be resumed if circumstances change.

The Bill



- Authorizes those conducting family finding and notification to disclose limited information to relatives and kin solely for the purposes of identifying support services and placement for the child.
 - Basic, but non-identifying information at the notification stage.
 - More detail, but only the child's first name, once the relationship between the child and relative has been verified and it is determined to be in the child's best interest.
 - The child and family's address and information about the case only after the consent of the parent or guardian or a court order.
- Provides direction and limitations related to using social media for family finding.

AB 1080



- Authored by Assemblymember Bryan.
- Organizational Sponsors: Youth Law Center, Alliance for Children's Rights, Children's Law Center, and Children's Advocacy Institute.

Challenges the Bill Aims to Address

- Lack of youth and family voice in deciding how Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits will be used.
- Youth's SSA benefits may inadvertently lapse while they're in foster care because a county placing agency did not do the annual workaround (for youth who are IV-E eligible) and/or there was not a timely appeal filed after termination.

Challenges the Bill Aims to Address

- It can be difficult to get information regarding whether a young person is receiving or eligible to receive SSA benefits.
- These practices undermine the intended purpose of these benefits, leaving many youth in foster care without financial resources when they age out of care or exit foster care to permanency.

The Bill



- Includes broadening conservation to all Title II RSDI child's benefits:
 - Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) (Title II) benefits are received by children whose parent worked and paid into Social Security, and the parent is deceased, disabled, or retired.
 - This **does not** include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Title XVI), which is a means tested disability benefit that would be received based on the child's or nonminor dependent's disability.
- Requires consultation with the child and family team on how the benefits should be used in the child's or NMD's best interest.

The Bill



- Requires counties to share information about whether the child is currently receiving, entitled to receive, or has established eligibility for any federal SSA benefits, including SSI.
- Includes clean-up language for the types of accounts counties use to conserve benefits under WIC 13756(b) to ensure they're appropriate for Title II benefits.
- Clarifies in statute the county's annual workaround requirement to maintain SSI benefits for all youth in foster care, rather than just NMDs, based on the county placing agency's fiduciary duties as representative payee.
- Requires the county to appeal if a child's eligibility for SSA benefits is terminated while they are in foster care.