



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 359

LCO No. 2407



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

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 Section 17a-101m of the general statutes is repealed and the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 parents of a child or children, the Commissioner of
5 Children and Families shall assign an intimate partner violence
6 specialist, employed by the department, to provide needed resources to
7 the relatives of the deceased parent. The intimate partner violence
8 specialist shall exercise due diligence to identify all adult grandparents
9 and other adult relatives of the child, including any adult relatives
10 suggested by the grandparents, subject to exceptions due to family or
11 domestic violence, who could potentially care for the child or children
12 of the deceased parent. Not later than seven days after being assigned
13 to provide needed resources to the relatives of the deceased parent, the
14 intimate partner violence specialist shall provide a list containing

15 pertinent identifying information of all adult relatives who potentially
16 could care for the child or children of the deceased parent to the
17 commissioner. The commissioner shall thereafter provide written
18 materials to all adult relatives who could potentially care for the child
19 or children of the deceased parent that (1) explain the options that any
20 such relative has under federal, state and local law to participate in the
21 care and placement of the child, including, but not limited to,
22 information describing the process for filing a petition in the Probate
23 Court seeking guardianship or custody of the minor child; (2) describe
24 the requirements (A) to obtain a foster care license pursuant to section
25 17a-114, and (B) for additional services and supports that are available
26 for children placed in such a home; and (3) describe the subsidized
27 guardianship program under section 17a-126, including (A) eligibility
28 requirements, (B) the process for applying to the program, and (C)
29 financial assistance available under the program. For the thirty-day
30 period following the date of death of the deceased parent, the
31 commissioner shall not initiate any action in the superior court for
32 juvenile matters concerning the custody of the child or children of the
33 deceased parent.

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

49 the subsidized guardianship program under section 17a-126, including
50 (A) eligibility requirements, (B) the process for applying to the program,
51 and (C) financial assistance available under the program.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Children and Families to provide certain resources and materials to the relatives of a parent whose death resulted from intimate partner violence.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]