

HB 2508 -- Preferential Placement of Children with Grandparents

Sponsor: Ruestman

This bill requires the juvenile court or the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to make a good faith attempt to contact and place a child needing emergency placement with a grandparent when the child must be removed from his or her primary caretaker's home. If placed with a grandparent, the emergency placement arrangement will remain in effect until a court conducts a hearing on the matter. The grandparent must comply with the emergency background check requirements. If contact with a grandparent cannot be made within three hours of the division determining an emergency placement is necessary, the child may be placed in a foster home. If placed in a foster home, the division must continue to attempt to contact the child's grandparents during the initial 24-hour period after an emergency placement was deemed necessary.

When a court determines that a child must be placed in a foster home, the division must make a good faith attempt to contact the grandparents of the child to determine if they wish to be considered and given first consideration for foster home placement of the child.