

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Alaska State Legislature

Session Address:

Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2828
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



Interim Address:

145 Main Street Loop, Ste. 226
Kenai, Alaska 99611-7771
Phone: (907) 283-7996
Fax: (907) 283-8127

**Senate Bill 181 Child Placement; Diligent Search
Summary of Changes Version H to P
March 18, 2024**

Section 1 – Adds language that while foster parents may request hearings regarding placement under AS 47.10.080(s), they are not parties to child in need of aid cases.

Section 2 – Adds direction to follow the process of searching for adult family members found in AS 47.10.145 when OCS is searching for family prior to determining final placement of a child following termination of parental rights.

Section 2 – Retains the current statutory provision that eligibility for foster care license is the standard for whether or not to provide notification to an adult family member that a child needs permanent placement.

Section 2 – Changes “courts” to “department” in the new text as the Department of Family and Youth Services is responsible for the actions taken under AS 47.10.088(i) and not the Court System.

Section 4 – Removes from AS 47.10.145(a) the search requirement following a transfer of placement under AS 47.10.080(s). This requirement is not in the adjacent AS 47.10.142(i) regarding family searches.

Section 4 – Removes the requirement from the new text in AS 47.10.145 to provide written notice in languages other than English. This may create undue hardship for the Department as there are 250 languages spoken in Alaska.

Section 4 – Replaces the requirement in AS 47.10.145(c) to file with the court information regarding the Department’s progress on family searches 10 days in advance of hearings with a requirement to provide the information in writing at the time of a hearing. Deletes language directing oral reports of information received after the 10-day filing deadline as all information will be delivered at the time of the hearing.

Section 5 – Adds language to clarify that the preferences in AS 47.14.100(e)(3)(A) should be applied in consideration of the best interest of the child.

Section 6 – Retains eligibility for a foster care license as the standard for placement of a child with an adult family member.

Section 6 – Adds language to AS 47.14.100(m) to clarify that non-parties requesting review hearings under AS 47.10.080(s) are not eligible for publicly appointed legal counsel.

Section 7 – Adds a new section that would require the Department to assist family members and family friends in the process of seeking licensing and waivers to licensing requirements under AS 47.32.032.