

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1579 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, BIRMELIN, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BALDWIN,
BASTIAN, BENNINGHOFF, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CLYMER,
CRUZ, DALLY, DeWEESE, FLEAGLE, GEIST, GERGELY, GINGRICH,
GOOD, HARRIS, HERMAN, HERSHEY, LEACH, MILLARD, O'NEILL,
PICKETT, PYLE, RUBLEY, SAMUELSON, SATHER, SCAVELLO,
E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MAY 12, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 12, 2005

AN ACT

1 Providing for certain responsibilities of county and private
2 agencies regarding resource parents.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Resource
7 Family Care Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "County agency." The county children and youth social
13 service agency established pursuant to section 405 (relating to
14 powers and duties of local authorities as to children) of the
15 act of June 24, 1937 (P.L.2017, No.396), known as the County

1 Institution District Law, and supervised by the Department of
2 Public Welfare under Article IX (relating to departmental powers
3 and duties as to supervision) of the act of June 13, 1967
4 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code.

5 "Private agency." A children and youth social service agency
6 subject to the requirements of 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3680 (relating to
7 administration and operation of a children and youth social
8 service agency).

9 "Resource parent." A parent which provides temporary foster
10 or kinship care for children who need out-of-home placement and
11 may eventually provide permanency for those children, including
12 a foster or adoptive parent.

13 Section 3. Responsibilities of county and private agencies.

14 County and private agencies shall provide the following to
15 resource parents:

16 (1) Treatment with consideration and respect for
17 personal dignity.

18 (2) Notification of scheduled meetings concerning the
19 child in order to actively participate and have input into
20 the case-planning and decision-making process regarding the
21 child.

22 (3) Support services to assist in the care of the child,
23 consistent with the child's approved permanency plan.

24 (4) Open, complete and timely responses from the county
25 or private agency when contacted by the resource parents.

26 (5) Information about the child's medical history,
27 general behaviors and information regarding the relationships
28 between the child and his or her parents shall be provided to
29 the resource parents as soon as that information is obtained
30 by the county or private agency. Within a reasonable amount

1 of time the agency shall provide information concerning the
2 educational history, life experiences and placement
3 circumstances of the child.

4 (6) Consultation with the resource parents in the
5 development of the permanency plan.

6 (7) Consultation with the resource parents in the
7 decision to release the resource family's address to the
8 child's parent and be informed when such information has been
9 shared.

10 (8) Assistance with the coordination of services for
11 dealing with family loss and separation when a child leaves
12 the resource family's home and when relocation is not the
13 result of an immediate threat to the health and safety of the
14 child caused by the resource family.

15 (9) Information on all county or private agency policies
16 and procedures that relate to the role of a resource parent.

17 (10) Appropriate training that will enhance skills and
18 ability of the resource parent.

19 (11) Information on how to receive services and reach
20 county or private agency personnel on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-
21 a-week basis.

22 (12) Confidentiality regarding allegations of abuse
23 involving a member of the resource family. The provision of
24 confidentiality shall not interfere with the safety of the
25 child.

26 (13) Opportunity to be heard regarding agency decisions
27 or practices. The agency shall not discharge, threaten or
28 otherwise discriminate or retaliate against a resource parent
29 for questioning the decisions or practices of an agency.

30 Section 4. Copy of responsibilities of county or private

1 agencies to be provided.

2 Resource parents shall be given a copy of the
3 responsibilities enumerated in this act by the county or private
4 agency upon approval as resource parents.

5 Section 5. Responsibility of payment for services.

6 No public funds may be used for the services enumerated in
7 section 3 (relating to responsibilities of county and private
8 agencies) until any other private funding sources have been
9 exhausted.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.