

Foster Care, Priority Bill House File 1003

Last Action:
**House Appropriations
Committee**
April 9, 2025

An Act relating to child placements.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to employ dedicated staff at the HHS's central office for the sole purpose of exercising the HHS's due diligence requirements in identifying and notifying family members of a child who has been removed from the custody of the child's parents.

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SIGNIFICANT CODE CHANGES

Prohibits a court from placing a child with a different individual or facility if the child was placed with a licensed foster parent for at least nine months immediately preceding the dispositional hearing, unless the court makes a specific finding that placement with the different individual is in the child's best interests and the court provides reasons for the finding.

Page 1, Line 17

House File 1003 provides for the following changes to the Code of Iowa.

Page #	Line #	Bill Section	Action	Code Section
1	1	1	Amend	232.84.2
1	17	2	Amend	232.102.1.c

1 1 Section 1. Section 232.84, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
 1 2 amended to read as follows:
 1 3 2. a. Unless the custody of a child is transferred from one
 1 4 of the child's parents to another parent of the child, within
 1 5 thirty days after the entry of an order under this chapter
 1 6 removing a child from the custody of a parent or parents of
 1 7 the child, the department shall exercise due diligence in
 1 8 identifying and providing notice to the child's grandparents,
 1 9 aunts, uncles, adult siblings, parents of the child's siblings,
 1 10 and adult relatives suggested by the child's parents, subject
 1 11 to exceptions due to the presence of family or domestic
 1 12 violence.
 1 13 b. The department shall employ dedicated staff at the
 1 14 department's central office for the sole purpose of exercising
 1 15 the department's due diligence requirements under paragraph
 1 16 "a".

1 17 Sec. 2. Section 232.102, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
 1 18 2025, is amended to read as follows:
 1 19 c. (1) A court shall not order placement of a child in a
 1 20 category identified in paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), (3),
 1 21 (4), or (5) without a specific finding that placement with
 1 22 an adult relative is not in the child's best interests and
 1 23 providing reasons for the court's finding.
 1 24 (2) Notwithstanding any provision under this subsection
 1 25 to the contrary, if the court finds, during the dispositional
 1 26 hearing, that the child has been placed with an individual
 1 27 licensed under chapter 237 to provide foster care for at least
 1 28 nine months immediately preceding the dispositional hearing,
 1 29 the court shall not order placement of a child in a category
 1 30 identified in paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), (2), or (3),
 1 31 without a specific finding that such placement is in the
 1 32 child's best interests and providing reasons for the court's
 1 33 findings.

CODE: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to employ dedicated staff at the HHS's central office for the sole purpose of exercising the HHS's due diligence requirements in identifying and notifying family members of a child who has been removed from the custody of the child's parents.

FISCAL IMPACT: The HHS indicates that existing staffing and resources within the Child Protective Services (CPS) General Fund appropriation will be used to implement the Bill. However, it is unknown how many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions will be assigned to this purpose.

DETAIL: 2024 Iowa Acts, [House File 2698](#) (FY 2025 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act) appropriated \$166,101,034 from the General Fund to the HHS for CPS. The estimated FY 2025 FTE positions for CPS was 829.00 FTEs.

CODE: Prohibits a court from placing a child with a different individual or facility if the child was placed with a licensed foster parent for at least nine months immediately preceding the dispositional hearing, unless the court makes a specific finding that placement with the different individual is in the child's best interests and the court provides reasons for the finding.