



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040

October 28, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, would like to bring to your attention the enclosed proposed agency request legislation, Z-0782.3, Definition of Parent for Purposes of Dependency Proceedings.

This proposal would amend RCW 13.04.011, RCW 13.34.125, RCW 13.34.030, and would add a new section to RCW 13.34. This legislation would align the definition of parent in dependency proceedings with the definition of parent in the Uniform Parentage Act under RCW 26.26.

A consistent issue related to the differing definitions of a parent is when the Division of Child Support may establish paternity and then find out that a dependency court has excluded a parent from participating in a dependency proceeding due to the differing definitions of parent. The passage of this legislation that would align the definitions would enhance the Division of Child Support's ability to establish child support in these cases.

This proposed legislation would allow the department to require alleged parents to participate in the determination of parentage. This change would also allow the department to recommend the placement or visits with the alleged parent or their relatives if it is determined that the placement or visits would be in the best interest of the child.

The Children's Administration would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss this request legislation. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the Lookout Conference Room on the 4th floor of OB-2. Directions to OB-2 are enclosed with this letter.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please provide any comments or questions to David Del Villar Fox at (360) 902-8016 or email, foda300@dshs.wa.gov.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

David Del Villar Fox
Legislative Liaison
Children's Administration