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REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

October 28, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 13-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT IN GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN AGES TWELVE AND UNDER WITH THE PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY BILL 74

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 319.2, 319.3, 361.2(e)(8)(A), 361.2(e)(9), 626(b), AND 727(a)(3)(B); ASSEMBLY BILL 74 (CHAPTER 21, STATUTES OF 2013)

This All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties and tribes of changes to the requirements for placement in group homes for children ages twelve and under, authorized through Assembly Bill (AB) 74 and effective immediately. These requirements apply to child welfare and probation agencies as well as tribes with Title IV-E Agreements. The specific sections of the Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) with changes made by AB 74 are attached to this ACL.

New Requirements for Placement in a Group Home for Children Ages Twelve and Under - Temporary Custody & Detention

Section 319.2 of the W&IC identifies the requirements for placement under temporary custody in a group home for children under the age of six. Under this section, a child under the age of six may be placed in a group home *only* when the court finds that placement is necessary to secure a complete and adequate evaluation, including placement planning and transition time. In addition, the placement shall not exceed 60 days unless a case plan has been developed and the need for additional time is documented in the case plan and has been approved. The AB 74 amended W&IC section 319.2 to increase the approval level to that of the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief

probation officer of the county probation department. Prior to the passage of AB 74, approval was required by the caseworker’s supervisor. The AB 74 also added section 319.3 to the W&IC, which includes the same provisions as described above but applies to placement in a group home for children six to twelve years of age, inclusive.

Below is a table display of the requirements for placement in a group home, when a child twelve and under is in temporary custody.

WHEN A CHILD TWELVE AND UNDER IS IN TEMPORARY CUSTODY

Placement Criteria	Initial Placement	Extension Criteria	Approval Level
Placement is necessary to secure a complete and adequate evaluation, including placement planning and transition time	Shall not exceed 60 days	Case plan has been developed and the need for additional time is documented in the case plan and has been approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare Deputy Director; or • Child Welfare Director; or • Assistant Chief Probation Officer; or • Chief Probation Officer

New Requirements for Placement in a Group Home for Dependent Children Ages Twelve and Under

Children Under Six: The AB 74 amended the requirements for placing a dependent child under six in a group home. Section 361.2(e)(8)(A) of W&IC now states (new requirements are shown in *italics*):

1. A child under the age of six may be placed in a group home when:
 - the case plan indicates that placement is for the purposes of providing *short-term, specialized and intensive* treatment to the child, and
 - the case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated duration of this treatment; and
 - *the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department has approved the case plan.*¹

¹ When considering placement into a group home, the deputy director or director of the county welfare department or assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department, may take into consideration the number and type of placements the child has had to date, the strategies that were attempted to avoid the need for group care, and other key criteria.

2. The short-term, specialized, and intensive treatment period for children under the age of six shall not exceed 120 days, unless:
 - *the county has made progress toward or is actively working toward implementation of the case plan that identifies the services and supports necessary to transition the child to a family setting;*
 - *circumstances beyond the county's control have prevented the county from obtaining those services or supports within the timeline documented in the case plan; and*
 - *the need for additional time pursuant to the case plan is approved by the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.*

3. *Each placement extended beyond the initial 120 days is subject to the requirements described in 1 and 2 above and the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department shall approve the continued placement no less frequently than every 60 days.*

Children Ages 6 to 12: The AB 74 also added W&IC section 361.2(e)(9)(A) which includes the same provisions as described in 1, 2 and 3 above but is specific to placement in a group home for children six to twelve years of age, inclusive, and limits the placement period for this age group to six months unless the requirements described in 2 are met.

Below is a table display of the requirements for placement in a group home when the child has been declared a dependent.

WHEN A CHILD TWELVE AND UNDER IS A DEPENDENT

Age	Placement Criteria	Initial Placement	Extension Criteria	Approval Level
0-5	Placement for purposes of providing short-term, specialized and intensive treatment	Shall not exceed 120 days	1. Case plan indicates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The county has made progress toward or is actively working toward implementing the case plan that identifies the services and supports necessary to transition the child to a family setting; and • Circumstances beyond the county’s control have prevented the county from obtaining those services or supports within the timeline documented in the case plan; and • Additional time is needed pursuant to the case plan and has been approved. 2. The Child Welfare Deputy Director or Director or the Assistant Chief Probation Officer or Chief Probation Officer shall approve the continued placement no less frequently than every 60 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare Deputy Director; or • Child Welfare Director; or • Assistant Chief Probation Officer; or • Chief Probation Officer
6-12	Same requirements as above.	Shall not exceed six months	Same requirements as above.	Same requirements as above.

Probation: The AB 74 also amended W&IC sections 626(b) and 727(a)(3)(B) to include applicable cross references for probation placements to meet the requirements described above and in W&IC sections 319.2, 319.3, 361.2(e)(8), and 361.2(e)(9).

All County Letter 13-87
Page Five

As soon as possible, or before the child's next review hearing, counties should put in place processes to ensure these provisions are being implemented for new and existing cases of children ages twelve and under in group homes.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Permanency Policy Bureau at (916) 657-1858 or at ConcurrentPlanningPolicyUnit@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill
Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

SEC. 7. Section 319.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

319.2. Notwithstanding Section 319, when a child under the age of six years is not released from the custody of the court, the child may be placed in a community care facility licensed as a group home for children or in a temporary shelter care facility, as defined in Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code, only when the court finds that placement is necessary to secure a complete and adequate evaluation, including placement planning and transition time. The placement period shall not exceed 60 days unless a case plan has been developed and the need for additional time is documented in the case plan and has been approved by the ~~supervisor of the caseworker's supervisor~~ deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.

SEC. 8. Section 319.3 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

319.3. Notwithstanding Section 319, a dependent child who is six to 12 years of age, inclusive, may be placed in community care facility licensed as a group home for children or in a temporary shelter care facility, as defined in Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code, only when the court finds that placement is necessary to secure a complete and adequate evaluation, including placement planning and transition time. The placement period shall not exceed 60 days unless a case plan has been developed and the need for additional time is documented in the case plan and has been approved by a deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.

SEC. 9. Section 361.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

361.2. (a) When a court orders removal of a child pursuant to Section 361, the court shall first determine whether there is a parent of the child, with whom the child was not residing at the time that the events or conditions arose that brought the child within the provisions of Section 300, who desires to assume custody of the child. If that parent requests custody, the court shall place the child with the parent unless it finds that placement with that parent would be detrimental to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child.

(b) If the court places the child with that parent it may do any of the following:

(1) Order that the parent become legal and physical custodian of the child. The court may also provide reasonable visitation by the noncustodial parent. The court shall then terminate its jurisdiction over the child. The custody order shall continue unless modified by a subsequent order of the superior court. The order of the juvenile court shall be filed in any domestic relation proceeding between the parents.

(2) Order that the parent assume custody subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and require that a home visit be conducted within three months. In determining whether to take the action described in this paragraph, the court shall consider any concerns that have been raised by the child's current caregiver regarding the parent.

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

After the social worker conducts the home visit and files his or her report with the court, the court may then take the action described in paragraph (1), (3), or this paragraph. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to imply that the court is required to take the action described in this paragraph as a prerequisite to the court taking the action described in either paragraph (1) or paragraph (3).

(3) Order that the parent assume custody subject to the supervision of the juvenile court. In that case the court may order that reunification services be provided to the parent or guardian from whom the child is being removed, or the court may order that services be provided solely to the parent who is assuming physical custody in order to allow that parent to retain later custody without court supervision, or that services be provided to both parents, in which case the court shall determine, at review hearings held pursuant to Section 366, which parent, if either, shall have custody of the child.

(c) The court shall make a finding either in writing or on the record of the basis for its determination under subdivisions (a) and (b).

(d) Part 6 (commencing with Section 7950) of Division 12 of the Family Code shall apply to the placement of a child pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (e).

(e) When the court orders removal pursuant to Section 361, the court shall order the care, custody, control, and conduct of the child to be under the supervision of the social worker who may place the child in any of the following:

(1) The home of a noncustodial parent as described in subdivision (a), regardless of the parent's immigration status.

(2) The approved home of a relative, regardless of the relative's immigration status.

(3) The approved home of a nonrelative extended family member as defined in Section 362.7.

(4) A foster home in which the child has been placed before an interruption in foster care, if that placement is in the best interest of the child and space is available.

(5) A suitable licensed community care facility.

(6) With a foster family agency to be placed in a suitable licensed foster family home or certified family home which has been certified by the agency as meeting licensing standards.

(7) A home or facility in accordance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.).

(8) A child under the age of six years may be placed in a community care facility licensed as a group home for children, or a temporary shelter care facility as defined in Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code, only under any of the following circumstances:

(A) (i) When a case plan indicates that placement is for purposes of providing specialized short-term, specialized, and intensive treatment to the child, the case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated duration of this treatment, and pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 16501.1, the facility meets the applicable regulations adopted under Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code and standards developed pursuant to Section 11467.1, and the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill
Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

probation officer of the county probation department has approved the case plan. The specialized

(ii) The short term, specialized, and intensive treatment period shall not exceed 120 days, unless additional time is needed pursuant to the case plan as documented by the caseworker and approved by the caseworker's supervisor the county has made progress toward or is actively working toward implementing the case plan that identifies the services or supports necessary to transition the child to a family setting, circumstances beyond the county's control have prevented the county from obtaining those services or supports within the timeline documented in the case plan, and the need for additional time pursuant to the case plan is documented by the caseworker and approved by a deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.

(iii) To the extent that placements pursuant to this paragraph are extended beyond an initial 120 days, the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) shall apply to each extension. In addition, the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department shall approve the continued placement no less frequently than every 60 days.

(B) When a case plan indicates that placement is for purposes of providing family reunification services. In addition, the facility offers family reunification services that meet the needs of the individual child and his or her family, permits parents to have reasonable access to their children 24 hours a day, encourages extensive parental involvement in meeting the daily needs of their children, and employs staff trained to provide family reunification services. In addition, one of the following conditions exists:

(i) The child's parent is also a ward of the court and resides in the facility.

(ii) The child's parent is participating in a treatment program affiliated with the facility and the child's placement in the facility facilitates the coordination and provision of reunification services.

(iii) Placement in the facility is the only alternative that permits the parent to have daily 24-hour access to the child in accordance with the case plan, to participate fully in meeting all of the daily needs of the child, including feeding and personal hygiene, and to have access to necessary reunification services.

(9) (A) A child who is six to 12 years of age, inclusive, may be placed in a community care facility licensed as a group home for children only when a case plan indicates that placement is for purposes of providing short-term, specialized, and intensive treatment for the child, the case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated duration of this treatment, and is approved by the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.

(B) The short-term, specialized, and intensive treatment period shall not exceed six months, unless the county has made progress or is actively working toward implementing the case plan that identifies the services or supports necessary to transition the child to a family setting, circumstances beyond the county's control have prevented the county from obtaining those services or supports within the timeline

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

documented in the case plan, and the need for additional time pursuant to the case plan is documented by the caseworker and approved by a deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department.

(C) To the extent that placements pursuant to this paragraph are extended beyond an initial six months, the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) shall apply to each extension. In addition, the deputy director or director of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation department shall approve the continued placement no less frequently than every 60 days.

(10) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to allow a social worker to place any dependent child outside the United States, except as specified in subdivision (f).

(f) (1) A child under the supervision of a social worker pursuant to subdivision (e) shall not be placed outside the United States prior to a judicial finding that the placement is in the best interest of the child, except as required by federal law or treaty.

(2) The party or agency requesting placement of the child outside the United States shall carry the burden of proof and must show, by clear and convincing evidence, that placement outside the United States is in the best interest of the child.

(3) In determining the best interest of the child, the court shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

(A) Placement with a relative.

(B) Placement of siblings in the same home.

(C) Amount and nature of any contact between the child and the potential guardian or caretaker.

(D) Physical and medical needs of the dependent child.

(E) Psychological and emotional needs of the dependent child.

(F) Social, cultural, and educational needs of the dependent child.

(G) Specific desires of any dependent child who is 12 years of age or older.

(4) If the court finds that a placement outside the United States is, by clear and convincing evidence, in the best interest of the child, the court may issue an order authorizing the social worker to make a placement outside the United States. A child subject to this subdivision shall not leave the United States prior to the issuance of the order described in this paragraph.

(5) For purposes of this subdivision, "outside the United States" shall not include the lands of any federally recognized American Indian tribe or Alaskan Natives.

(6) This subdivision shall not apply to the placement of a dependent child with a parent pursuant to subdivision (a).

(g) (1) If the child is taken from the physical custody of the child's parent or guardian and unless the child is placed with relatives, the child shall be placed in foster care in the county of residence of the child's parent or guardian in order to facilitate reunification of the family.

(2) In the event that there are no appropriate placements available in the parent's or guardian's county of residence, a placement may be made in an appropriate place in another county, preferably a county located adjacent to the parent's or guardian's community of residence.

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

(3) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as requiring multiple disruptions of the child's placement corresponding to frequent changes of residence by the parent or guardian. In determining whether the child should be moved, the social worker shall take into consideration the potential harmful effects of disrupting the placement of the child and the parent's or guardian's reason for the move.

(4) When it has been determined that it is necessary for a child to be placed in a county other than the child's parent's or guardian's county of residence, the specific reason the out-of-county placement is necessary shall be documented in the child's case plan. If the reason the out-of-county placement is necessary is the lack of resources

in the sending county to meet the specific needs of the child, those specific resource needs shall be documented in the case plan.

(5) When it has been determined that a child is to be placed out-of-county either in a group home or with a foster family agency for subsequent placement in a certified foster family home, and the sending county is to maintain responsibility for supervision and visitation of the child, the sending county shall develop a plan of supervision and visitation that specifies the supervision and visitation activities to be performed and specifies that the sending county is responsible for performing those activities. In addition to the plan of supervision and visitation, the sending county shall document information regarding any known or suspected dangerous behavior of the child that indicates the child may pose a safety concern in the receiving county. Upon implementation of the Child Welfare Services Case Management System, the plan of supervision and visitation, as well as information regarding any known or suspected dangerous behavior of the child, shall be made available to the receiving county upon placement of the child in the receiving county. If placement occurs on a weekend or holiday, the information shall be made available to the receiving county on or before the end of the next business day.

(6) When it has been determined that a child is to be placed out-of-county and the sending county plans that the receiving county shall be responsible for the supervision and visitation of the child, the sending county shall develop a formal agreement between the sending and receiving counties. The formal agreement shall specify the supervision and visitation to be provided the child, and shall specify that the receiving county is responsible for providing the supervision and visitation. The formal agreement shall be approved and signed by the sending and receiving counties prior to placement of the child in the receiving county. In addition, upon completion of the case plan, the sending county shall provide a copy of the completed case plan to the receiving county. The case plan shall include information regarding any known or suspected dangerous behavior of the child that indicates the child may pose a safety concern to the receiving county.

(h) Whenever the social worker must change the placement of the child and is unable to find a suitable placement within the county and must place the child outside the county, the placement shall not be made until he or she has served written notice on the parent or guardian at least 14 days prior to the placement, unless the child's health or well-being is endangered by delaying the action or would be endangered if prior notice were given. The notice shall state the reasons which require placement outside the county. The parent or guardian may object to the placement not later than

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

seven days after receipt of the notice and, upon objection, the court shall hold a hearing not later than five days after the objection and prior to the placement. The court shall order out-of-county placement if it finds that the child's particular needs require placement outside the county.

(i) Where the court has ordered removal of the child from the physical custody of his or her parents pursuant to Section 361, the court shall consider whether the family ties and best interest of the child will be served by granting visitation rights to the child's grandparents. The court shall clearly specify those rights to the social worker.

(j) Where the court has ordered removal of the child from the physical custody of his or her parents pursuant to Section 361, the court shall consider whether there are any siblings under the court's jurisdiction, the nature of the relationship between the child and his or her siblings, the appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling relationships pursuant to Section 16002, and the impact of the sibling relationships on the child's placement and planning for legal permanence.

(k) (1) When an agency has placed a child with a relative caregiver, a nonrelative extended family member, a licensed foster family home, or a group home, the agency shall ensure placement of the child in a home that, to the fullest extent possible, best meets the day-to-day needs of the child. A home that best meets the day-to-day needs of the child shall satisfy all of the following criteria:

(A) The child's caregiver is able to meet the day-to-day health, safety, and well-being needs of the child.

(B) The child's caregiver is permitted to maintain the least restrictive and most family-like environment that serves the day-to-day needs of the child.

(C) The child is permitted to engage in reasonable, age-appropriate day-to-day activities that promote the most family-like environment for the foster child.

(2) The foster child's caregiver shall use a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 362.04, to determine day-to-day activities that are age-appropriate to meet the needs of the child. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a child's caregiver to permit the child to engage in day-to-day activities that carry an unreasonable risk of harm, or subject the child to abuse or neglect.

SEC. 10. Section 626 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

626. An officer who takes a minor into temporary custody under the provisions of Section 625 may do any of the following:

(a) Release the minor.

(b) Deliver or refer the minor to a public or private agency with which the city or county has an agreement or plan to provide shelter care, counseling, or diversion services to minors so delivered. A placement of a child in a community care facility as specified in Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code shall be made in accordance with Section 319.2 or 319.3, as applicable, and with paragraph (8) or (9) of subdivision (e) of Section 361.2, as applicable.

(c) Prepare in duplicate a written notice to appear before the probation officer of the county in which the minor was taken into custody at a time and place specified in the notice. The notice shall also contain a concise statement of the reasons the minor

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

was taken into custody. The officer shall deliver one copy of the notice to the minor or to a parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor and may require the minor or the minor's parent, guardian, or relative, or both, to sign a written promise to appear at the time and place designated in the notice. Upon the execution of the promise to appear, the officer shall immediately release the minor. The officer shall, as soon as practicable, file one copy of the notice with the probation officer. The written notice to appear may require that the minor be fingerprinted, photographed, or both, upon the minor's appearance before the probation officer, if the minor is a person described in Section 602 and he or she was taken into custody upon reasonable cause for the commission of a felony.

(d) Take the minor without unnecessary delay before the probation officer of the county in which the minor was taken into custody, or in which the minor resides, or in which the acts take place or the circumstances exist which are alleged to bring the minor within the provisions of Section 601 or 602, and deliver the custody of the minor to the probation officer. The peace officer shall prepare a concise written statement of the probable cause for taking the minor into temporary custody and the reasons the minor was taken into custody and shall provide the statement to the probation officer at the time the minor is delivered to the probation officer. In no case shall the officer delay the delivery of the minor to the probation officer for more than 24 hours if the minor has been taken into custody without a warrant on the belief that the minor has committed a misdemeanor. In determining which disposition of the minor to make, the officer shall prefer the alternative which least restricts the minor's freedom of movement, provided that alternative is compatible with the best interests of the minor and the community.

SEC. 11. Section 727 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

727. (a) (1) If a minor is adjudged a ward of the court on the ground that he or she is a person described by Section 601 or 602, the court may make any reasonable orders for the care, supervision, custody, conduct, maintenance, and support of the minor, including medical treatment, subject to further order of the court.

(2) In the discretion of the court, a ward may be ordered to be on probation without supervision of the probation officer. The court, in so ordering, may impose on the ward any and all reasonable conditions of behavior as may be appropriate under this disposition. A minor who has been adjudged a ward of the court on the basis of the commission of any of the offenses described in subdivision (b) or paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 707, Section 459 of the Penal Code, or subdivision (a) of Section 11350 of the Health and Safety Code, shall not be eligible for probation without supervision of the probation officer. A minor who has been adjudged a ward of the court on the basis of the commission of any offense involving the sale or possession for sale of a controlled substance, except misdemeanor offenses involving marijuana, as specified in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, or of an offense in violation of Section 32625 of the Penal Code, shall be eligible for probation without supervision of the probation officer only when the court determines that the interests of justice would best be served and states reasons on the record for that determination.

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill

Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

(3) In all other cases, the court shall order the care, custody, and control of the minor to be under the supervision of the probation officer who may place the minor in any of the following:

(A) The approved home of a relative or the approved home of a nonrelative, extended family member, as defined in Section 362.7. If a decision has been made to place the minor in the home of a relative, the court may authorize the relative to give legal consent for the minor's medical, surgical, and dental care and education as if the relative caretaker were the custodial parent of the minor.

(B) A suitable licensed community care facility. A placement of a child in a community care facility, as specified in Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code, shall be made in accordance with Section 319.2 or 319.3, as applicable, and with paragraph (8) or (9) of subdivision (e) of Section 361.2, as applicable.

(C) With a foster family agency to be placed in a suitable licensed foster family home or certified family home which has been certified by the agency as meeting licensing standards.

(D) (i) Every minor adjudged a ward of the juvenile court who is residing in a placement as defined in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, shall be entitled to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. No state or local regulation or policy may prevent, or create barriers to, participation in those activities. Each state and local entity shall ensure that private agencies that provide foster care services to wards have policies consistent with this section and that those agencies promote and protect the ability of wards to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. A group home administrator, a facility manager, or his or her responsible designee, and a caregiver, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 362.04, shall use a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 362.04, in determining whether to give permission for a minor residing in foster care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. A group home administrator, a facility manager, or his or her responsible designee, and a caregiver shall take reasonable steps to determine the appropriateness of the activity taking into consideration the minor's age, maturity, and developmental level.

(ii) A group home administrator or a facility manager, or his or her responsible designee, is encouraged to consult with social work or treatment staff members who are most familiar with the minor at the group home in applying and using the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

(b) (1) To facilitate coordination and cooperation among agencies, the court may, at any time after a petition has been filed, after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard, join in the juvenile court proceedings any agency that the court determines has failed to meet a legal obligation to provide services to a minor, for whom a petition has been filed under Section 601 or 602, to a nonminor, as described in Section 303, or to a nonminor dependent, as defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400. In any proceeding in which an agency is joined, the court shall not impose duties upon the agency beyond those mandated by law. The purpose of joinder under this section is to ensure the delivery and coordination of legally mandated services to the minor. The joinder shall not be maintained for any other purpose. Nothing in this section shall prohibit agencies that have received notice of the hearing on joinder from meeting

AB 74
FY 2013-14 Trailer Bill
Short-Term Efforts for the Continuum of Care Reform

prior to the hearing to coordinate services.

(2) The court has no authority to order services unless it has been determined through the administrative process of an agency that has been joined as a party, that the minor, nonminor, or nonminor dependent is eligible for those services. With respect to mental health assessment, treatment, and case management services pursuant to Chapter 26.5 (commencing with Section 7570) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the court's determination shall be limited to whether the agency has complied with that chapter.

(3) For the purposes of this subdivision, "agency" means any governmental agency or any private service provider or individual that receives federal, state, or local governmental funding or reimbursement for providing services directly to a child, nonminor, or nonminor dependent.

(c) If a minor has been adjudged a ward of the court on the ground that he or she is a person described in Section 601 or 602, and the court finds that notice has been given in accordance with Section 661, and if the court orders that a parent or guardian shall retain custody of that minor either subject to or without the supervision of the probation officer, the parent or guardian may be required to participate with that minor in a counseling or education program including, but not limited to, parent education and parenting programs operated by community colleges, school districts, or other appropriate agencies designated by the court.

(d) The juvenile court may direct any reasonable orders to the parents and guardians of the minor who is the subject of any proceedings under this chapter as the court deems necessary and proper to carry out subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) including orders to appear before a county financial evaluation officer, to ensure the minor's regular school attendance, and to make reasonable efforts to obtain appropriate educational services necessary to meet the needs of the minor.

If counseling or other treatment services are ordered for the minor, the parent, guardian, or foster parent shall be ordered to participate in those services, unless participation by the parent, guardian, or foster parent is deemed by the court to be inappropriate or potentially detrimental to the minor.