



# Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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## Summary HB 1075 PN 1914

This legislation amends the Public Welfare Code to require the Department of Public Welfare to conduct family finding for each child in the child welfare system when the child is accepted for services and annually thereafter.

Family finding is defined as efforts by the county agency to engage with and gain commitments from adult relatives and kin for the purpose of planning and delivering social services to the child or parent. Kin is defined in the existing article as an individual who is at least 21 years of age and is a godparent, a member of the child's tribe, or an individual with a significant positive relationship with the child or family.

A county agency **may** discontinue family finding if the child is:

- Adjudicated dependant and the court determines family finding is no longer in the best interests of the child
- Not under the jurisdiction of the court and the county agency determines continued family finding a threat to the child's safety
- In a preadoptive placement and adoption proceedings have commenced

A county agency **shall** resume family finding if the child is:

- Under the jurisdiction of a court and the court determines it is in the best interests of the child
- Not under the jurisdiction of a court and the county agency determines it is in the best interests of the child

The Department of Public Welfare is required to promulgate regulations providing for the requirements of county agencies.

### Amendment A02209

- Deletes the reference to maternal and paternal as it relates to relatives in order to be consistent with the usage of terminology throughout the rest of the bill
- Clarifies that the county agency makes the decision to resume family finding if the child is not under the jurisdiction of the court

### Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.