




**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

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July 30, 2021

TO: All Field Operations

FROM: Darcey Hancock, Director of Field Operations 

SUBJECT: Implementation of E2SHB 1310

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1310 was passed by the legislature and is now in effect. This bill was intended to limit the use of police force, but is being interpreted by many law enforcement agencies to limit their ability to assist DCYF in certain functions, such as assisting with pickup orders, accompanying staff on field responses in order to ensure your safety, or conducting child welfare checks. Our staff have already been impacted across the state.

This communication details the actions DCYF is taking to navigate this issue, as well as provides guidance to you as you work to keep yourself and the children and families we serve safe. We will continue to keep you updated.

DCYF has taken the following actions:

- Secretary Hunter has been in communication with the Governor about the impact.
- Secretary Hunter has also been in communication with Washington State Patrol to explore available WSP backup if local law enforcement is non-responsive. If DCYF is able to arrange for WSP backup, you will receive further information.
- We have developed situational reports for executive management that will be submitted by the regions, and we will be updating these daily. We have also developed a document to track each law enforcement agency's response as we work through the issues.
- DCYF has been collaborating with the Office of the Attorney General to determine changes needed in practice.
- Our executive team will work with the local authorities where we have problems with law enforcement.

### **Worker and Client Safety**

Your safety is critically important. If you know there may be risks to your safety, discuss this with your supervisor. If you are in the field, and you or someone else is in an unsafe situation, contact 911, detailing the safety concerns. It will be important to provide specific information on why there is an imminent threat to safety. If there is potentially a crime being committed, report

that. If law enforcement will not respond and you are unsafe, leave the scene immediately, get to a safe place and contact your supervisor.

These details are also important if you are requesting law enforcement to conduct a child welfare check.

### **Pickup Orders**

Under RCW 13.34.050, if the Department is seeking to remove a child or children from their parents' care when filing a dependency petition, the Department must rely on pickup orders from the court. The Office of the Attorney General (AGO) will be requesting that specific language be included in the order that directs a specific law enforcement agency to take a child into custody. When workers are preparing dependency petitions and communicating with the AGO about the need for a pickup order, the worker must specify which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction, and the pickup order will direct that law enforcement agency to assist with picking up the child. If the child relocates to a different jurisdiction, the caseworker may need to seek a new court order for that jurisdiction. If you have concerns that the parents or guardians may escalate when the child or children are removed from their care, be sure to include your assessment of those risk factors in your dependency petition and request for a pickup order.

### **Missing from Care Youth**

RCW 13.34.165 authorizes the juvenile court to issue an order directing law enforcement to pick up a child who is missing from care and return the child to the Department. When a youth is missing from care, we will need to petition the court to order law enforcement to pick up the youth.