



## ARIZONA STATE SENATE

### *Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session*

#### FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1309

##### court-ordered services; dependent children

##### Purpose

Permits the court to order supplemental services to those provided by the Department of Economic Security (DES) if available at no cost to the state and stipulates that if a person is receiving equivalent services from a non-contracted provider, DES may not require the person to duplicate services with a contracted provider.

##### Background

Current law provides that if a child has been removed from the home, the court is required to order DES to make reasonable efforts to provide services to the child and the child's parent. Unless the court, after considering certain factors, determines by clear and convincing evidence that reunification services should not be provided, a case plan is developed and DES is ordered to provide reunification services.

According to DES's website, the case plan identifies the case goal for the child, the services and supports needed to achieve the desired behavioral changes, including those services that will assure the child's health, behavior, educational, and independent living needs if applicable, the person responsible and the planned date of review.

When a case plan is required, a child protective services (CPS) specialist visits with family members to determine what services are needed. The services are to help the family deal with problems and work toward a goal of family reunification and may include the following: 1) assistance with obtaining food, housing, clothing and medical care; 2) psychological evaluations; 3) counseling; 4) day care; 5) parent aide services; 6) parenting skills training; 7) educational programs, job training or vocational rehabilitation; 8) drug or alcohol treatment programs; or 9) peer self-help groups.

There may be a positive fiscal impact associated with this legislation based on persons receiving services through non-contracted providers, rather than through entities that are contracted with DES.

##### Provisions

1. Allows the court to order services on agreement of the provider, if the court determines that supplemental services to those provided by DES are available at no cost to the state.
2. Allows the court to employ individuals to facilitate collaboration and ensure the delivery of court-ordered services.

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3. Stipulates the employee has access to all information regarding the child and the child's family without obtaining prior approval and may disclose information as outlined in current law relating to confidential information.
4. Provides that if a child or child's parent receives services from a provider that is not contracted with DES and the services are equivalent or better than those ordered, DES may not require the child or child's parent to duplicate services if the non-contracted provider gives DES documentation demonstrating the services satisfy the requirement.
5. Stipulates that DES is not required to pay for non-contracted services.
6. Makes technical and conforming changes.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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MY/tf