

Legislative and Related Activity on Foster Care and Related Issues in Kansas, 2011-2016

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SB 52/House Sub. for SB 23: Grandparents as interested parties in child-in-need-of-care (CINC) proceedings. SB 52 died in House Judiciary; but language included in conference committee report (CCR) for House Sub. for SB 23 and passed. Eff. July 1, 2011.	SB 262/HB 2539: Requires substantial consideration of grandparent who requests custody when child has been removed from custody of parents. SB 262 passed; eff. July 1, 2012.		Sub. for SB 394: Foster Parents' Bill of Rights Act. Passed by Senate; died in House Judiciary. Referred to Judicial Council and Special Committee on Judiciary for interim study.	ERO 43: Transferred foster care licensing responsibilities from Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to DCF. Eff. July 1, 2015.	HB 2585: Would have established the Foster Care Oversight Task Force, with a similar charge as the Special Committee on Foster Care Adequacy, and a sunset date of January 1, 2019. House Committee on Children and Seniors recommended favorably as amended; died on House Calendar at end of 2016 Session.
HB 2103: Would have changed the criteria for termination of rights, potentially leading to longer foster care stays. Died in House Children and Families.	SB 279/HB 2613: Added family foster home relationships to definition of crime of unlawful sexual relations. SB 279 died in House Corrections, but language included in CCRB for HB 2613. Eff. July 1, 2012.		HB 2586: Would have established State Ombudsman Concerning Child Abuse; included investigation of complaints and monitoring of issues involving children in foster care. Died in House Judiciary without hearing.	SB 37: Foster Parents' Bill of Rights Act, introduced by Special Committee on Judiciary. Tabled in Senate Judiciary in 2015; died in committee at end of 2016 Session.	SB 315: Would have limited the number of foster children in a home. Died in Senate Judiciary Committee at end of 2016 Session.
HB 2142: Would have allowed court to direct specific placement for children in Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS) custody. Died in House Judiciary.	HB 2536: Would have amended CINC code to provide a number of specific rights to grandparents. Died in House Judiciary without hearing.		Kansas Judicial Council: Juvenile Offender/Child in Need of Care Advisory Committee issued report and proposed legislation based upon Sub. for SB 294.	SB 148/HB 2244/SB 159/SB 113: Safe Families Act. Power of attorney to delegate care and custody of child for up to one year. Introduced as SB 148 and HB 2244, which were both stricken from calendar. Language placed in SB 159 (also contains provisions related to law enforcement officer taking child into custody when drugs present) and passed Senate. 2016 House Judiciary recommended substitute bill for SB 159 on same topic, struck from House calendar by Rule 1507. Language placed in second 2015 CCR for SB 113, which was not adopted by House. Referred to Judicial Council in 2015 for interim study. See 2016 column (SB 418).	SB 394/SB 418/Senate Sub. for HB 2112/House Sub. for SB 159: Host (Safe; Supporting) Families Act; Medicating of a child. SB 418 passed, creating the Safe Families Act, which incorporated aspects of the other bills listed here, including some of the recommendations from the Judicial Council study. Allows a child placement agency or other KS charitable organization to establish program coordinated with private organizations to provide temporary care of children by placing with a host family, <i>via</i> a power of attorney. Not to be considered an out-of-home placement by the state. SB 418 also included provisions drawn from SB 157, described in the 2015 column. Eff. July 1, 2016.
	HB 2538: Would have allowed reimbursement for care to grandparents when children are placed with them directly by the court at a disposition hearing; the amount would be limited to the maximum rate foster care parents would receive under similar circumstances. Died in House Social Services Budget Committee.		Special Committee on Judiciary: Considered SB 394 and related reforms. Recommended a Senate bill be introduced containing the Judicial Council's proposed legislation based upon 2014 Sub. for SB 394 and that additional consideration be given to the grievance process.	SB 157: Would have specified that nothing in the CINC Code shall be construed to compel a parent to medicate a child if the parent is acting in accordance with a physician's medical advice. Stricken from 2015 Senate Calendar. See 2016 column (SB 418).	SB 410: Would have established CARE Family pilot program for foster care. Passed Senate; died in House Committee on Judiciary at end of 2016 Session.
			Department for Children and Families (DCF): Appointed Foster Parent and Youth Ombudsman in summer 2014.	SB 158: Would establish CARE Family Program for foster care. Died in Senate Judiciary Committee at end of 2016 Session.	Legislative Division of Post Audit: Conducting three-part study on "Foster Care and Adoption in Kansas: Reviewing Various Issues Related to the State's Foster Care and Adoption System." The report on Part 1 was released in July 2016. The report on Part 2 was released in September 2016. It is anticipated the report on Part 3 will be released in early 2017.
			Kansas Bill of Rights Workgroup (KBORG): Workgoup initiated by the Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (KFAPA) to work on foster parent bill of rights and trainings related to foster care. Workgroup involved stakeholders, agency representatives, and other entities involved in Kansas child welfare system.	SB 160: Would have required court to take action regarding termination of parental rights within six months of CINC adjudication. Died in Senate Judiciary Committee at end of 2016 Session.	2016 Special Committee on Foster Care Adequacy: To review foster care contractor oversight by DCF; evaluate whether working group would aid in addressing foster care concerns; study selection and qualification of foster parents; review duties of those responsible for foster children, Safe Families Act, DCF/contractor oversight, and Grandparents Rights Law.
				SB 204: Would have added provisions related to calculating visitation time under CINC code. Died in Senate Judiciary Committee at end of 2016 Session.	
				Kansas Judicial Council: Studied Safe Families Act during interim.	
				2015 Special Committee on Foster Care Adequacy: To review foster care contractor oversight by DCF; evaluate whether working group would aid in addressing foster care concerns; study selection and qualification of foster parents; review duties of those responsible for foster children, Safe Families Act, DCF/contractor disconnect, and Grandparents Rights Law.	