

By: Watson

S.B. No. 698

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to certain duties of the Department of Family and  
3 Protective Services regarding parental child safety placements.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 264.904(d), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (d) Before the department may close a case with a child  
8 still living in a parental child safety placement, the department  
9 must:

10 (1) determine and document in the case file that the  
11 child can safely remain in the placement without the department's  
12 supervision;

13 (2) obtain the written agreement of the parent or  
14 person who made the parental child safety placement, if possible;

15 (3) obtain the caregiver's agreement in writing that  
16 the child can continue living in the placement after the department  
17 closes the case; ~~and~~

18 (4) develop a written plan for the child's care after  
19 the department closes the case;

20 (5) ensure that the parent or person who made the  
21 parental child safety placement, if appropriate, and the caregiver  
22 have:

23 (A) obtained any public benefits for which the  
24 child qualifies;

1           (B) enrolled the child in school or made other  
2 arrangements relating to the child's education;

3           (C) obtained health insurance for the child or  
4 made other arrangements relating to the child's medical care;

5           (D) filed for or transferred to the caregiver any  
6 child support, social security income, or public benefits being  
7 paid on behalf of the child to the parent or other person who made  
8 the parental child safety placement;

9           (E) obtained the following documents for the  
10 child:

11                   (i) the child's birth certificate;

12                   (ii) a social security card or a  
13 replacement social security card;

14                   (iii) a driver's license or personal  
15 identification card; and

16                   (iv) any other personal document the  
17 department determines appropriate; and

18           (F) obtained any other resources necessary to  
19 care for the child; and

20           (6) assist the parent or person who made the parental  
21 child safety placement, if appropriate, and the caregiver in  
22 complying with requirements described by Subdivision (5).

23           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.