




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

Updated - POLICY MEMO

July 13, 2023

TO: Child Welfare Employees
FROM: Natalie Green, Assistant Secretary 
RE: Additional Changes to [2559. Hospital Holds](#) policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

SUNSET REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to Child Welfare (CW) employees on the updated policy and procedure requirements to align with [House Bill 1227: Keeping Families Together Act](#). An additional change was added to the procedural requirements below.

This policy is under full review for further revisions, but the following changes will take effect July 1, 2023:

New Policy Requirements

- [RCW 26.44.056](#) changes the removal standard for hospital administrators or physicians from imminent danger to the child or youth's safety to *imminent physical harm* due to child abuse or neglect.
- When a hospital administrator or physician detains a child on a hospital hold, caseworkers must determine if the child or youth is or would be at risk of *imminent physical harm* due to child abuse or neglect if discharged to the parents or guardians.

New Procedural Requirement

- [RCW 26.44.056](#) removed the requirement for DCYF to monitor the child's safety for at least six months if the child was placed on a hospital hold and placed in protective custody by law enforcement. Procedures Section 1(d)(ii) is no longer in effect.

Resources/Forms

[Child Custody Transfer DCYF 10-157](#) form will be revised and available on 7/1/2023.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Tarassa Froberg, CPS-FVS Program Manager, at tarassa.froberg@dcyf.wa.gov or 360-515-8092.

Cc: Brenda Villarreal