

**RCW 74.13.290 Fewest possible placements for children—Preferred placements.** (1) To provide stability to children in out-of-home care, placement selection shall be made with a view toward the fewest possible placements for each child. If possible, the initial placement shall be viewed as the only placement for the child. Pursuant to RCW 13.34.060 and 13.34.130, placement of the child with a relative or other suitable person is the preferred option. The use of short-term interim placements of thirty days or less to protect the child's health or safety while the placement of choice is being arranged is not a violation of this principle.

(2) If a child has been previously placed in out-of-home care and is subsequently returned to out-of-home care, and the department cannot locate an appropriate and available relative or other suitable person, the preferred placement for the child is in a foster family home where the child previously was placed, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The foster family home is available and willing to care for the child;

(b) The foster family is appropriate and able to meet the child's needs; and

(c) The placement is in the best interest of the child. [2009 c 482 s 1; 1990 c 284 s 11.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.