
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1236

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Boldt, Pettigrew, Darneille, Moeller, Clibborn, Roach, Armstrong, Jarrett, Lantz, Kenney, Benson, Shabro, Anderson and Mielke)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to public access to child dependency hearings; and
2 amending RCW 13.34.115.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.115 and 2000 c 122 s 12 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 All hearings may be conducted at any time or place within the
7 limits of the county(~~(, and such cases may not be heard in conjunction~~
8 ~~with other business of any other division of the superior court)~~). The
9 public shall not be excluded(~~(, and only such persons may be admitted~~
10 ~~who are found by the judge to have a direct interest in the case or in~~
11 ~~the work of the court)~~) except if the judge finds that excluding the
12 public is in the best interest of the child and states on the record
13 the reasons for excluding the public. (~~(Unless the court states on the~~
14 ~~record the reasons to disallow attendance,)~~) Regardless of whether the
15 public is excluded, unless the judge finds it is not in the best
16 interest of the child: (1) The court shall allow a child's relatives
17 and, if a child resides in foster care, the child's foster parent, to
18 attend all hearings and proceedings pertaining to the child (~~for the~~

1 ~~sole purpose of providing oral and written information about the child~~
2 ~~and the child's welfare to the court)); and (2) anyone may attend the~~
3 hearings or proceedings at the request of the parent.

4 Stenographic notes or any device which accurately records the
5 proceedings may be required as provided in other civil cases pursuant
6 to RCW 2.32.200.

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