

1 AN ACT in relation to children.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Child Care Act of 1969 is amended by
5 adding Section 7.3 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 10/7.3 new)

7 Sec. 7.3. Children placed by private child welfare
8 agency.

9 (a) Before placing a child who is a ward of the
10 Department in a foster family home, a private child welfare
11 agency must ascertain (i) whether any other children who are
12 wards of the Department have been placed in that home and
13 (ii) whether every such child who has been placed in that
14 home continues to reside in that home, unless the child has
15 been transferred to another placement or is no longer a ward
16 of the Department. The agency must keep a record of every
17 other child welfare agency that has placed such a child in
18 that foster family home; the record must include the name and
19 telephone number of a contact person at each such agency.

20 (b) At least once every 30 days, a private child welfare
21 agency that places wards of the Department in foster family
22 homes must make a site visit to every such home where it has
23 placed a ward. The purpose of the site visit is to verify
24 that the child continues to reside in that home and to verify
25 the child's safety and well-being. The agency must document
26 the verification in its records. If a private child welfare
27 agency fails to comply with the requirements of this
28 subsection, the Department must suspend all payments to the
29 agency until the agency complies.

30 (c) The Department must periodically (but no less often
31 than once every 6 months) review the child placement records

1 of each private child welfare agency that places wards of the
2 Department.

3 (d) If a child placed in a foster family home is
4 missing, the foster parent must promptly report that fact to
5 the Department or to the child welfare agency that placed the
6 child in the home. If the foster parent fails to make such a
7 report, the Department shall put the home on hold for the
8 placement of other children and initiate corrective action
9 that may include revocation of the foster parent's license to
10 operate the foster family home. A foster parent who knowingly
11 and willfully fails to report a missing foster child under
12 this subsection is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

13 (e) If a private child welfare agency determines that a
14 ward of the Department whom it has placed in a foster family
15 home no longer resides in that home, the agency must promptly
16 report that fact to the Department. If the agency fails to
17 make such a report, the Department shall put the agency on
18 hold for the placement of other children and initiate
19 corrective action that may include revocation of the agency's
20 license.

21 (f) When a child is missing from a foster home, the
22 Department or private agency in charge of case management
23 shall report regularly to the foster parent concerning
24 efforts to locate the missing child.

25 (g) The Department must strive to account for the status
26 and whereabouts of every one of its wards who it determines
27 is not residing in the authorized placement in which he or
28 she was placed.

29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
30 becoming law.