

3699--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 28, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary -- recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to establishing kinship guardianship

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The family court act is amended by adding a new section  
2     1059 to read as follows:  
3     S 1059. KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP. 1. DEFINITIONS. WHEN USED IN THIS  
4     SECTION:  
5     A. "KINSHIP FOSTER CHILD" SHALL MEAN A CHILD PLACED WITH A SOCIAL  
6     SERVICES OFFICIAL PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE THOUSAND FIFTY-FIVE OF THIS  
7     PART WHO IS PLACED EITHER (I) AS A KINSHIP FOSTER CHILD PURSUANT TO  
8     REGULATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OR (II) AS A  
9     FOSTER CHILD AND WHO HAS BEEN PLACED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICIAL OR  
10    OTHER AUTHORIZED AGENCY IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE WITHIN THE THIRD  
11    DEGREE;  
12    B. "KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT" SHALL MEAN A FOSTER PARENT WHO IS APPROVED  
13    OR CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT OF THE  
14    SOCIAL SERVICES LAW AND WHO IS CARING FOR A CHILD WHO IS RELATED WITHIN  
15    THE THIRD DEGREE.  
16    2. PETITION. A KINSHIP FOSTER PARENT OR A SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICIAL MAY  
17    FILE A PETITION WITH THE FAMILY COURT WHICH PLACED THE CHILD PURSUANT TO  
18    SECTION ONE THOUSAND FIFTY-FIVE OF THIS PART TO HAVE THE KINSHIP FOSTER  
19    PARENT APPOINTED AS KINSHIP GUARDIAN FOR THE CHILD. THE PETITION SHALL  
20    ALLEGE THAT THE CHILD WAS PLACED, THAT MORE THAN FIFTEEN MONTHS HAVE  
21    PASSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE ORDER PLACING THE CHILD, THAT THE PARENTS  
22    OF THE CHILD ARE PRESENTLY AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE UNABLE TO

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 PROVIDE PROPER AND ADEQUATE CARE FOR THE CHILD, NOTWITHSTANDING THE  
2 AUTHORIZED AGENCY'S DILIGENT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN THE  
3 PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP, THAT THE PROSPECTIVE KINSHIP GUARDIANS CONSENT TO  
4 THE APPOINTMENT AND THAT THE CHILD HAS RESIDED WITH THEM FOR MORE THAN  
5 EIGHTEEN MONTHS, AND THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD  
6 FOR THE PETITION TO BE GRANTED.

7 3. NOTICE. NOTICE OF THE PETITION AND A COPY OF THE PETITION SHALL BE  
8 SERVED UPON THE SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE CHILD IS PLACED,  
9 THE PARENTS OF THE CHILD, THE KINSHIP FOSTER PARENTS OF THE CHILD, AND  
10 THE LAW GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD, EACH OF WHOM SHALL BE PARTIES TO THE  
11 PROCEEDING.

12 4. HEARING AND DETERMINATION. IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE ELEMENTS OF  
13 THE PETITION HAVE BEEN PROVEN BY A FAIR PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE,  
14 OR UPON THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, THE COURT SHALL GRANT THE PETITION.

15 5. ORDERS. AN ORDER APPOINTING A PERSON AS A KINSHIP GUARDIAN SHALL  
16 AWARD CUSTODY OF THE CHILD TO THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN. A KINSHIP GUARDIAN  
17 SHALL HAVE THE SAME AUTHORITY AS A PARENT TO CONSENT ON BEHALF OF A  
18 CHILD, EXCEPT THAT A KINSHIP GUARDIAN SHALL NOT CONSENT TO THE ADOPTION  
19 OR SURRENDER OF A CHILD.

20 6. MAINTENANCE SUBSIDY. THE SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE  
21 CHILD WAS PLACED SHALL MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN AS  
22 IF THE CHILD HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER SECTIONS FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND  
23 FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW, AND SUBJECT TO THE  
24 PROCEDURES, LIMITATIONS, AND MINIMUM PAYMENTS OF SUCH SECTIONS.

25 7. RIGHTS OF THE PARENTS. THE APPOINTMENT OF A KINSHIP GUARDIAN SHALL  
26 NOT AFFECT OR IMPAIR THE VISITATION RIGHTS OF A PARENT.

27 8. VACATING ORDERS. A PARENT MAY APPLY FOR AN ORDER VACATING THE  
28 APPOINTMENT OF THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN. THE COURT SHALL VACATE THE  
29 APPOINTMENT AND AWARD CUSTODY OF THE CHILD TO THE PARENT UPON A SHOWING  
30 THAT THE PARENT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE PROPER AND ADEQUATE CARE FOR THE  
31 CHILD AND ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS EXIST:

32 A. THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN IS UNFIT;

33 B. THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN HAS NEGLECTED HIS OR HER DUTIES;

34 C. THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE  
35 APPOINTMENT; OR

36 D. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KINSHIP GUARDIAN AND THE CHILD IS NO  
37 LONGER IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD.

38 S 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2015.