

STATE OF NEW YORK

6405

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 7, 2019

Introduced by Sen. MONTGOMERY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to an application of a relative to become a foster parent

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 1028-a of the family court act, as added by chapter
2 671 of the laws of 2005, paragraphs (iii) and (v) of subdivision (a) and
3 subdivision (c) as amended by chapter 12 of the laws of 2006, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 § 1028-a. Application of a relative to become a foster parent. (a)
6 Upon the application of a relative to become a foster parent of a child
7 in foster care, the court shall, subject to the provisions of this
8 subdivision, hold a hearing to determine whether the child should be
9 placed with a relative in foster care. Such hearing shall only be held
10 if:

11 (i) the ~~relative~~ person is related ~~[within the third degree of~~
12 ~~consanguinity to either parent]~~ to the child as described under para-
13 graph (a), (b), or (c) of subdivision three of section four hundred
14 fifty-eight-a of the social services law;

15 (ii) the child has been temporarily removed under this part, or placed
16 pursuant to section one thousand fifty-five of this article, and placed
17 in non-relative foster care;

18 (iii) the relative indicates a willingness to become the foster parent
19 for such child and has not refused previously to be considered as a
20 foster parent or custodian of the child, provided, however, that an
21 inability to provide immediate care for the child due to a lack of
22 resources or inadequate housing, educational or other arrangements
23 necessary to care appropriately for the child shall not constitute a
24 previous refusal;

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

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1 (iv) the local social services district has refused to place the child
2 with the relative for reasons other than the relative's failure to qual-
3 ify as a foster parent pursuant to the regulations of the office of
4 children and family services; and

5 (v) the application is brought within six months from the date the
6 relative received notice that the child was being removed or had been
7 removed from his or her home and no later than twelve months from the
8 date that the child was removed.

9 (b) The court shall give due consideration to such application and
10 shall make the determination as to whether the child should be placed in
11 foster care with the relative based on the best interests of the child.

12 (c) After such hearing, if the court determines that placement in
13 foster care with the relative is in the best interests of the child, the
14 court shall direct the local commissioner of social services, pursuant
15 to regulations of the office of children and family services, to
16 commence an investigation of the home of the relative within twenty-four
17 hours and thereafter expedite approval or certification of such rela-
18 tive, if qualified, as a foster parent. No child, however, shall be
19 placed with a relative prior to final approval or certification of such
20 relative as a foster parent.

21 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.