

Assembly Bill 1068
Improving the Efficacy of the Child and Family Team Process
Assemblymember Cooley

SUMMARY

Child and Family Teams (CFTs) are a key component of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) initiated by AB 403 (*Chapter 443, Statutes of 2015*). A CFT is a group of individuals who are engaged through a variety of team-based processes to identify the strengths and needs of the child, youth and NMD, their family, and their caregiver and to make recommendations regarding placement, services and supports that will promote positive outcomes for safety, permanency, and well-being (*WIC § 16501(a)(4)*).

AB 1068 seeks to strengthen the CFT process by ensuring a child, youth and nonminor dependent (NMD) in foster care, their family, their caregiver and other individuals important to the youth and family have a meaningful voice in case planning and placement decisions.

ISSUE

With three years of implementation experience, youth and their caregivers, parents, relatives and attorneys have all identified gaps in the CFT process, which can impede active and open participation in the decision-making process by key members.

There are also gaps in information sharing requirements, which make it difficult for the court system to consider CFT recommendations when making important case orders regarding placement and services.

THIS BILL

The bill aims to improve the CFT process by:

- Allowing the child, youth, parent, or caregiver to request an alternative facilitator to facilitate the CFT meeting if the facilitator is the social worker assigned to the case;
- Requiring key participants receive advance notification of CFT meetings and their right to request an alternative facilitator for the meeting;
- Ensuring the educational rights holder and educational liaison are included in CFT meetings when placement decisions are being made or following a placement change;
- Requiring a summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the CFT meetings be included in court reports to aid in making orders about placement and services; and
- Protecting confidential health care related information of children and youth from being inappropriately disclosed.

SUPPORT

- Alliance for Children's Rights (**Co-sponsor**)
- Children's Law Center of California (**Co-sponsor**)

CONTACT

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