

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 545

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Brown, and Gray)
(Coauthors: Senators Beall, De León, and Fuller)**

February 20, 2013

An act to amend Section 362.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juveniles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 545, as amended, Mitchell. Dependent children: placement: nonrelative extended family member.

Existing law sets forth various placement options for children who have been adjudged dependent children of the juvenile court and removed from their homes on the basis of neglect or abuse, as specified, which include placement within the approved home of a nonrelative extended family member. Existing law requires that when the home of a nonrelative extended family member is being considered for placement of a child, the home shall be evaluated, and approval of that home shall be granted or denied, pursuant to specified standards set forth in the regulations for the licensing of foster family homes. Existing law defines "nonrelative extended family member" as an adult caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child.

This bill would expand the definition of a nonrelative extended family member to include an adult caregiver who has an established familial relationship with a relative of the child, as defined.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 362.7 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 362.7. When the home of a nonrelative extended family
4 member is being considered for placement of a child, the home
5 shall be evaluated, and approval of that home shall be granted or
6 denied, pursuant to the same standards set forth in the regulations
7 for the licensing of foster family homes that prescribe standards
8 of safety and sanitation for the physical plant and standards for
9 basic personal care, supervision, and services provided by the
10 caregiver.

11 A “nonrelative extended family member” is defined as an adult
12 caregiver who has an established familial relationship with *a*
13 *relative*, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section
14 361.3, or a familial or mentoring relationship with the child. The
15 county welfare department shall verify the existence of a
16 relationship through interviews with the parent and child or with
17 one or more third parties. The parties may include relatives of the
18 child, teachers, medical professionals, clergy, neighbors, and family
19 friends.

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