

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2767**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez**

February 19, 2016

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An act to amend Section 16010.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2767, as amended, Lopez. Foster care: caregivers: information.

Existing law states the findings and declarations of the Legislature that a caregiver of a foster child should have certain basic information in order to provide for the needs of children placed in his or her care, including the name, mailing address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the child's social worker, the social worker's supervisor, the child's attorney, and the court-appointed special advocate, if applicable.

This bill would additionally provide that caregivers should also be provided with the email address of the child's social worker, the social worker's supervisor, the child's attorney, and the court-appointed special advocate, if applicable.

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 16010.4 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 16010.4. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:  
4 ~~(a) The State of California is guardian to roughly 60,000 children~~  
5 ~~in foster care. As of 2014, California has a disproportionately high~~  
6 ~~number of children in foster care. While the state is home to 12~~  
7 ~~percent of the nation’s population, it guards over 15 percent of the~~  
8 ~~nation’s children in its foster care system. Thirty-three percent of~~  
9 ~~foster children live with relatives.~~

10 ~~(b)~~  
11 (a) Foster parents are one of the most important sources of  
12 information about the children in their care. Courts, lawyers, and  
13 social workers should have the benefit of caregivers’ perceptions.  
14 Both federal and state law recognize the importance of foster  
15 parents’ participation in juvenile court proceedings. Federal law  
16 requires that foster parents and other caregivers receive expanded  
17 opportunities for notice, the right to participate in dependency  
18 court review and permanency hearings, and the right to  
19 communicate concerns to the courts. State law similarly provides  
20 that caregivers may submit their concerns to courts in writing.

21 ~~(e)~~  
22 (b) It is in the children’s best interests that their caregivers are  
23 privy to important information about them. This information is  
24 necessary to obtain social and health services for children, enroll  
25 children in school and extracurricular activities, and update social  
26 workers and court personnel about important developments  
27 affecting foster children.

28 ~~(d)~~  
29 (c) Most school districts and extracurricular organizations  
30 require proof of age before enrolling a child in their programs.  
31 Moreover, caregivers are required to obtain a medical appointment  
32 for their foster children within the first month of receiving the  
33 children into their homes. It would therefore be in both the  
34 children’s and the caregivers’ best interests to be provided with  
35 any available medical information, medications and instructions  
36 for use, and identifying information about the children upon  
37 receiving the children into their homes.

38 (e)

1 (d) Caregivers should have certain basic information in order  
2 to provide for the needs of children placed in their care, including  
3 all of the following:

4 (1) The name, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile  
5 number, and email address of the child’s social worker and the  
6 social worker’s supervisor.

7 (2) The name, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile  
8 number, and email address of the child’s attorney and  
9 court-appointed special advocate (CASA), if any.

10 (3) The name, address, and department number of the juvenile  
11 court in which the child’s juvenile court case is pending.

12 (4) The case number assigned to the child’s juvenile court case.

13 (5) A copy of the child’s birth certificate, passport, or other  
14 identifying documentation of age as may be required for enrollment  
15 in school and extracurricular activities.

16 (6) The child’s State Department of Social Services  
17 identification number.

18 (7) The child’s Medi-Cal identification number or group health  
19 insurance plan number.

20 (8) Medications or treatments in effect for the child at the time  
21 of placement, and instructions for their use.

22 (9) A plan outlining the child’s needs and services, including  
23 information on family and sibling visitation.

24 (f)

25 (e) Caregivers should have knowledge of all of the following:

26 (1) Their right to receive notice of all review and permanency  
27 hearings concerning the child during the placement.

28 (2) Their right to attend those hearings or submit information  
29 they deem relevant to the court in writing.

30 (3) The “Caregiver Information Form” (Judicial Council Form  
31 JV-290), which allows the caregiver to provide information directly  
32 to the court.

33 (4) Information about and referrals to any existing services,  
34 including transportation, translation, training, forms, and other  
35 available services.

36 (5) The caregiver’s obligation to cooperate with any  
37 reunification, concurrent, or permanent planning for the child.

38 (6) Any known siblings or half-siblings of the child, whether  
39 the child has, expects, or desires to have contact or visitation with

- 1 any or all siblings, and how and when caregivers facilitate the
- 2 contact or visitation.
- 3 ~~(g)~~
- 4 (f) Courts should know, at the earliest possible date, the interest
- 5 of the caretaker in providing legal permanency for the child.

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