

**Subject** Phone calls between parents and foster care providers

**Authors** Moran and Christensen

**Analyst** Sarah Sunderman

**Date** February 24, 2020

## Summary

This bill amends Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.219, to require the responsible social services agency to initiate and facilitate a phone call between the parents of a child in foster care and the foster care provider as soon as is practicable, or within 48 hours of removal, effective for children entering out-of-home placement on or after August 1, 2020.

The bill specifies the topics the parents and the foster care provider must discuss during the phone call, such as the foster care provider's background and home environment, the child's habits, likes, and dislikes, and pertinent medical information.

The bill also requires the responsible social services agency to document efforts to initiate and facilitate the call, allows the agency to delay the call under certain circumstances, and allows the agency to decide whether the call is in the child's best interests. A call is not required if the parents cannot be located or contacted, after diligent efforts.