

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 SENATE BILL 1425

By: Pederson

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; providing access to  
8 certain counseling services for foster parents and  
9 certain children; stating purpose; providing for  
10 reimbursement of contracted providers; making  
11 counseling optional; prohibiting certain penalties  
12 and discrimination; providing for establishment of  
13 certain qualifications; directing provision of  
14 certain information to foster parents; providing for  
15 codification; providing an effective date; and  
16 declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-9-126 of Title 10A, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. Foster parents and children in the home other than foster  
22 children shall have access to not less than six (6) hours annually  
23 of counseling services provided by licensed mental health providers  
24 contracted with the Department of Human Services.

25 B. The purpose of providing the counseling services is to  
26 retain safe, loving, and supportive foster homes for children in the  
27 custody of the State of Oklahoma.

1 C. The counseling services shall be provided at no cost to the  
2 foster parent or child, and the mental health provider shall be paid  
3 a rate for such services by the Department in an amount determined  
4 by the Department.

5 D. The counseling services provided under this section shall be  
6 optional for foster parents and children. Foster parents shall not  
7 be penalized or discriminated against for seeking or receiving  
8 counseling services under this section.

9 E. All licensed mental health providers who provide counseling  
10 services under this section shall meet such qualifications as may be  
11 established by the Director of Human Services. Such qualifications  
12 shall include, but not be limited to, training in the Flash  
13 Technique.

14 F. Prior to or upon placement of a child in a foster home, the  
15 Department shall provide information on the counseling services  
16 described in this section to the foster parents, including how to  
17 seek such services.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
23

24 59-2-3313 DC 12/15/2023 4:04:08 PM  
25