
Committee Clears Singer Bill that Would Assign "Kinship Guardian Advocate" to Caregivers

Author : Azzara

Categories : Senator Bob Singer

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The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee approved legislation today sponsored by Senator Robert Singer that would require the Department of Children and Families to appoint a kinship guardian advocate to a caregiver to provide legal advocacy services throughout the kinship legal guardianship process.



The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee approved legislation today sponsored by Sen. Robert Singer that would require the DCF to appoint a kinship guardian advocate to a caregiver during the kinship legal guardianship process. ([Pixabay](#))

"Anyone going through the courts trying to secure legal guardianship knows how difficult that process can be," said Singer (R-30). "This bill was inspired by one of my constituents—an aunt who was raising her nephew because the child's mother was unable to do so. This individual had trouble navigating the system on her own and was unaware of her and the child's legal rights. My legislation will simplify this process by appointing a kinship guardian advocate that will be able to assist all caregivers in understanding their legal rights."

Singer's bill, [S-3207](#), requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to appoint a kinship guardian advocate to a caregiver to provide legal advocacy services throughout the kinship legal guardianship process.

Under the bill, a kinship guardian advocate is to: (1) assist the caregiver in understanding their legal rights when petitioning the court to be appointed as a kinship legal guardian; (2) inform the caregiver about their role in the court process and regularly provide updates to the caregiver; (3) provide the caregiver with advice on how to advance the well-being of the child with whom the caregiver has a kinship relationship and represent the child's best interests before the court.