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H.581

Representative Haas of Rochester moves that the bill be amended in Sec. 1, 14 V.S.A., by striking § 2634 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new § 2634 to read as follows:

§ 2634. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POLICY

The Department for Children and Families shall adopt a policy defining its role with respect to families who establish a guardianship under this article.

The policy shall be consistent with the following principles:

(1) When the Family Services Division is conducting an investigation or assessment related to child safety and the child may be a child in need of care and supervision as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 5102(3), division staff shall not recommend that a family pursue a minor guardianship.

(2) There are times when the family may independently decide to file a petition for minor guardianship under 14 V.S.A. § 2623. The social worker shall make it clear that whether to file the petition is the family's choice.

(3) In response to a request from the Probate judge, the Family Services Division social worker shall attend a minor guardianship hearing and provide information relevant to the proceeding.

(4) If a minor guardianship is established during the time that the Family Services Division has an open case involving the minor, the social worker shall inform the guardian and the parents about services and supports available to

1 them in the community. Absent a valid allegation of child abuse or neglect
2 concerning the minor, accepted pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 4915, the case shall be
3 closed within three months.

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