

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.
3 581 entitled “An act relating to Guardianship of minors” respectfully reports
4 that it has considered the same and recommends that that the bill be amended
5 as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 1, 14 V.S.A. § 2630, by striking subsection (a) in its entirety
7 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 (a) The guardian:

9 (1) should permit the child to have contact of reasonable duration and
10 frequency with the child’s parents and siblings; and

11 (2) shall abide by and ensure the child is available for contact with a
12 noncustodial parent pursuant to an existing parent-child contact order issued by
13 the Family Division.

14 Second: In Sec. 1, 14 V.S.A., by striking § 2634 in its entirety and inserting
15 in lieu thereof a new § 2634 to read as follows:

16 § 2634. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POLICY

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

19 The policy shall be consistent with the following principles:

20 (1) The Family Services Division shall maintain a policy assuring that
21 when a child must be removed from his or her home to assure the child’s

1 safety, the Division will pursue a CHINS procedure within a reasonable time if
2 there are sufficient grounds under 33V.S.A. § 5102.

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

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

10 (4) If a minor guardianship is established during the time that the Family
11 Services Division has an open case involving the minor, the social worker shall
12 inform the guardian and the parents about services and supports available to
13 them in the community and shall close the case within a reasonable time unless
14 a specific safety risk is identified.

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16 (Committee vote: _____)

17 _____

18 Representative [surname]

19 FOR THE COMMITTEE

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