

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 187

By: Pederson

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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