

Subject Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder screening

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Summary

This bill makes organizational changes to section 260C.291, governing agency responsibilities for parents and children in placement, and adds subdivision 6, requiring the responsible social services agency to coordinate a prenatal alcohol exposure screening for any child who enters foster care.

The screening is required as soon as is practicable, or within 45 days of the child's removal from their home, if the agency determines that the child has not previously been screened or identified as having been prenatally exposed to alcohol. The bill also requires the agency to ensure that the screening is conducted according to best practice guidelines and criteria developed by a statewide organization that focuses solely on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevention and intervention. The new screening requirement is effective for children entering foster care on or after August 1, 2020.