

CBS 2 Chicago, WBBM-TV

Lawmaker Pushes For Changes In Foster Care System



[Pam Zekman](#)

Reporting

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(CBS) CHICAGO One day after the CBS 2 Investigators revealed the horrific results of foster family secrets, a state legislator is pushing for a change in the law.

As CBS 2's Pam Zekman explains that the goal is to make sure foster care agencies give prospective parents all critical information before the children are placed in their care.

One foster couple had no idea the boy they took into their home had a history of setting fires. Then he set their house on fire endangering their other children.

◆ And that's the first thing that went thru my mind that my kids were burnt up in that house," said foster parent Genether Johnson.

And foster parent Priscilla Huff did not know her foster boy had a history of sexual abuse and violence before he sexually assaulted her grandson.

◆ And he was moved on to another family and yes, there were four more children hurt," Huff said.

To be sure others are not hurt, State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) says she'll take action.

"Every foster family has a right to know the health history of the child, the potential dangers, and if that isn't being done then we have a problem and we need to fix it," Feigenholtz said.

DCFS policies require that private foster care agencies tell foster parents everything they know about the child.

"It may be a policy, but a policy without oversight is worthless," said attorney Jay

Deratany.

That's why he says the policy needs to be transformed in to a state law and Feigenholz says there needs to be consequences for agencies that ignore it.

"Perhaps a loss of license, a significant fine or penalty or just shutting them down completely if it continues to happen," Feigenholtz said.

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