

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi [signature]
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: June 24, 2004

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Shelter Care Initial Hearing
Commencement Amendment Act of 2004"

REFERENCE: Draft Legislation – Bill Number Not Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because no additional staff or resources will be required. The proposed legislation will have no affect on General Fund revenue.

Background

The proposed legislation would require that a hearing be held following the removal of a child for neglect within 72 hours rather than the current requirement that such a hearing be held within 24 hours.

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has indicated that the change is necessary to have a more effective, well-attended and thorough hearing beneficial to the child involved. According to CFSA, the agency intends to fully implement the family team meetings, for which the 72-hour hearing period is required, by September 1, 2004.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 through FY 2008 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because no additional staff or resources will be required. According to CFSA, the proposed legislation would not cause any administrative changes to the court's current scheduling practices.