

with a situation where a biological father or a biological mother simply isn't around, we're dealing with juvenile court cases, or in a situation which is worse where the juvenile or the biological parent has been charged with the abuse or has been found to have committed abuse of the child. So we've made it...as left that...tried to make it clear that that is discretionary with the guardian ad litem, that type of contact. I'd be happy to, again, try to answer any questions about the committee amendments. It's my understanding that there will be an amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Avery would move to amend the committee amendments. (Avery amendment appears on page 632 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Madam President, members, in my trying to become educated a little bit on what the guardian ad litem is for, finding out that that is the only hard relationship that may be developed after the youngster has been taken out of his home setting. I feel that with language there making it permissive with consultation and the use of phones, that we're going way too far beyond the bounds of what should be some personal contact. And with my amendment to the committee amendment what it basically states is there shall be at least one personal visitation with the juvenile within that first 18 months. Looking at the language, there's potentially three visits, one at two weeks, one at six months after that, and then one an additional six months thereafter. So, within that first 18 months I feel that there should be at least one contact personal visit with that juvenile. I think it's very important...personally, I...there probably be more, because the more contact is developing that relationship that should be between the guardian ad litem that is in charge of making sure that the best interests of the child are taken into account.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Dierks wishes to announce that in the north balcony are 12 government students from O'Neill High School with their teacher. They're visiting this morning. Would you all please stand and be recognized. Thank you very much. Senator Vrtiska, to speak to the Avery amendment to the committee amendments.