

**Colorado General Assembly, Session Laws of Colorado 2003**  
**Chapter 409 – Children and Domestic Matters**

**SECTION 1.** 19-3-213 (1) (c) (I), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**19-3-213. Placement criteria.** (1) In any case in which the county department recommends placement out of the home for a child or in which a child is in out-of-home placement, the court, the guardian ad litem, the county department, any CASA volunteer, and other parties shall consider the best interests of the child and shall comply with the following placement criteria:

(c) (I) If the child is part of a sibling group, as defined in section 19-1-103 (98.5), and the sibling group is being placed in foster care, the county department shall make thorough efforts to locate a joint placement for all of the children in the sibling group. IF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT LOCATES AN APPROPRIATE, CAPABLE, WILLING, AND AVAILABLE JOINT PLACEMENT FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SIBLING GROUP, IT SHALL BE PRESUMED THAT PLACEMENT OF THE ENTIRE SIBLING GROUP IN THE JOINT PLACEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN. SUCH PRESUMPTION MAY BE REBUTTED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT PLACEMENT OF THE ENTIRE SIBLING GROUP IN THE JOINT PLACEMENT IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD OR OF THE CHILDREN.