
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1945

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representative Romero)

Read first time 01/28/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to seminars for parents; amending RCW 26.12.170 and
2 26.12.220; and adding a new section to chapter 26.12 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.12.170 and 1991 c 367 s 13 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 To facilitate and promote the purposes of this chapter, family
7 court judges and court commissioners may order or recommend family
8 court services, parenting seminars, drug and alcohol abuse evaluations
9 and monitoring of the parties through public or private treatment
10 services, other treatment services, the aid of physicians,
11 psychiatrists, other specialists, or other services or may recommend
12 the aid of the pastor or director of any religious denomination to
13 which the parties may belong.

14 If the court has reasonable cause to believe that a child of the
15 parties has suffered abuse or neglect it may file a report with the
16 proper law enforcement agency or the department of social and health
17 services as provided in RCW 26.44.040. Upon receipt of such a report
18 the law enforcement agency or the department of social and health
19 services will conduct an investigation into the cause and extent of the

1 abuse or neglect. The findings of the investigation may be made
2 available to the court if ordered by the court as provided in RCW
3 42.17.310(3). The findings shall be restricted to the issue of abuse
4 and neglect and shall not be considered custody investigations.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.12.220 and 1991 c 367 s 15 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislative authority of any county may authorize family
8 court services as provided in RCW 26.12.230. The legislative authority
9 may impose a fee in excess of that prescribed in RCW 36.18.010 for the
10 issuance of a marriage license. The fee shall not exceed eight
11 dollars.

12 (2) In addition to any other funds used therefor, the governing
13 body of any county shall use the proceeds from the fee increase
14 authorized by this section to pay the expenses of the family court and
15 the family court services under chapter 26.12 RCW. If there is no
16 family court in the county, the legislative authority may provide such
17 services through other county agencies or may contract with a public or
18 private agency or person to provide such services. Family court
19 services also may be provided jointly with other counties as provided
20 in RCW 26.12.230.

21 (3) The family court services program may hire professional
22 employees to provide the investigation, evaluation and reporting, and
23 mediation services, or the county may contract for these services, or
24 both. To facilitate and promote the purposes of this chapter, the
25 court may order or recommend the aid of physicians, psychiatrists, or
26 other specialists.

27 (4) The family court services program may provide or contract for:
28 (a) Mediation; (b) investigation, evaluation, and reporting to the
29 court; and (c) reconciliation; and may provide a referral mechanism for
30 drug and alcohol testing, monitoring, and treatment; and any other
31 treatment, parenting, or anger management programs the family court
32 professional considers necessary or appropriate.

33 (5) Services other than family court investigation, evaluation,
34 reconciliation, and mediation services shall be at the expense of the
35 parties involved absent a court order to the contrary. The parties
36 shall bear all or a portion of the cost of parenting seminars and
37 family court investigation, evaluation, reconciliation, and mediation
38 services according to the parties' ability to pay.

1 (6) The county legislative authority may establish rules of
2 eligibility for the family court services funded under this section.
3 The rules shall not conflict with rules of the court adopted under
4 chapter 26.12 RCW or any other statute.

5 (7) The legislative authority may establish fees for family court
6 investigation, evaluation, reconciliation, and mediation services under
7 this chapter according to the parties' ability to pay for the services.
8 Fees collected under this section shall be collected and deposited in
9 the same manner as other county funds are collected and deposited, and
10 shall be maintained in a separate account to be used as provided in
11 this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 26.12 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 Any court rules adopted for the implementation of parenting
15 seminars shall include the following provisions:

16 (1) In no case shall opposing parties be required to attend
17 seminars together;

18 (2) Upon a showing of domestic violence or abuse which would not
19 require mutual decision making pursuant to RCW 26.09.191, or that a
20 parent's attendance at the seminar is not in the children's best
21 interests, the court shall either:

22 (a) Waive the requirement of completion of the seminar; or

23 (b) Provide an alternative, voluntary parenting seminar for
24 battered spouses; and

25 (3) The court may waive the seminar for good cause.

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