
HOUSE BILL 2873

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives J. Johnson, Frame, Ramel, Callan, Hudgins, Ryu, Davis, Orwall, and Pollet

Read first time 01/28/20. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to families in conflict; amending RCW 13.32A.030,
2 13.32A.040, and 13.32A.150; and adding a new section to chapter
3 13.32A RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.32A.030 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 417 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 As used in this chapter the following terms have the meanings
8 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

9 (1) "Abuse or neglect" means the injury, sexual abuse, sexual
10 exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child by any
11 person under circumstances that indicate the child's health, welfare,
12 and safety is harmed, excluding conduct permitted under RCW
13 9A.16.100. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child
14 abuse or neglect as defined in this section.

15 (2) "Administrator" means the individual who has the daily
16 administrative responsibility of a crisis residential center, or his
17 or her designee.

18 (3) "At-risk youth" means a juvenile:

19 (a) Who is absent from home for at least seventy-two consecutive
20 hours without consent of his or her parent;

1 (b) Who is beyond the control of his or her parent such that the
2 child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the
3 child or any other person; or

4 (c) Who has a substance abuse problem for which there are no
5 pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse.

6 (4) "Child," "juvenile," "youth," and "minor" mean any
7 unemancipated individual who is under the chronological age of
8 eighteen years.

9 (5) "Child in need of services" means a juvenile:

10 (a) Who is beyond the control of his or her parent such that the
11 child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the
12 child or any other person;

13 (b) Who has been reported to law enforcement as absent without
14 consent for at least twenty-four consecutive hours on two or more
15 separate occasions from the home of either parent, a crisis
16 residential center, an out-of-home placement, or a court-ordered
17 placement; and

18 (i) Has exhibited a serious substance abuse problem; or

19 (ii) Has exhibited behaviors that create a serious risk of harm
20 to the health, safety, or welfare of the child or any other person;

21 (c) (i) Who is in need of: (A) Necessary services, including food,
22 shelter, health care, clothing, or education; or (B) services
23 designed to maintain or reunite the family;

24 (ii) Who lacks access to, or has declined to use, these services;
25 and

26 (iii) Whose parents have evidenced continuing but unsuccessful
27 efforts to maintain the family structure or are unable or unwilling
28 to continue efforts to maintain the family structure; or

29 (d) Who is a "sexually exploited child."

30 (6) "Child in need of services petition" means a petition filed
31 in juvenile court by a parent, child, or the department seeking
32 adjudication of placement of the child.

33 (7) "Crisis residential center" means a secure or semi-secure
34 facility established pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW.

35 (8) "Custodian" means the person or entity that has the legal
36 right to custody of the child.

37 (9) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and
38 families.

39 (10) "Extended family member" means an adult who is a
40 grandparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt,

1 or first cousin with whom the child has a relationship and is
2 comfortable, and who is willing and available to care for the child.

3 (11) "Guardian" means the person or agency that (a) has been
4 appointed as the guardian of a child in a legal proceeding other than
5 a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, and (b) has the legal right to
6 custody of the child pursuant to such appointment. The term
7 "guardian" does not include a "dependency guardian" appointed
8 pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

9 (12) "Multidisciplinary team" means a group formed to provide
10 assistance and support to a child who is an at-risk youth or a child
11 in need of services and his or her parent. The team must include the
12 parent, a department caseworker, a local government representative
13 when authorized by the local government, and when appropriate,
14 members from the mental health and substance abuse disciplines. The
15 team may also include, but is not limited to, the following persons:
16 Educators, law enforcement personnel, probation officers, employers,
17 church persons, tribal members, therapists, medical personnel, social
18 service providers, placement providers, and extended family members.
19 The team members must be volunteers who do not receive compensation
20 while acting in a capacity as a team member, unless the member's
21 employer chooses to provide compensation or the member is a state
22 employee.

23 (13) "Out-of-home placement" means a placement in a foster family
24 home or group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW or
25 placement in a home, other than that of the child's parent, guardian,
26 or legal custodian, not required to be licensed pursuant to chapter
27 74.15 RCW.

28 (14) "Parent" means the parent or parents who have the legal
29 right to custody of the child. "Parent" includes custodian or
30 guardian.

31 (15) "Secure facility" means a crisis residential center, or
32 portion thereof, that has locking doors, locking windows, or a
33 secured perimeter, designed and operated to prevent a child from
34 leaving without permission of the facility staff.

35 (16) "Semi-secure facility" means any facility, including but not
36 limited to crisis residential centers or specialized foster family
37 homes, operated in a manner to reasonably assure that youth placed
38 there will not run away. Pursuant to rules established by the
39 department, the facility administrator shall establish reasonable
40 hours for residents to come and go from the facility such that no

1 residents are free to come and go at all hours of the day and night.
2 To prevent residents from taking unreasonable actions, the facility
3 administrator, where appropriate, may condition a resident's leaving
4 the facility upon the resident being accompanied by the administrator
5 or the administrator's designee and the resident may be required to
6 notify the administrator or the administrator's designee of any
7 intent to leave, his or her intended destination, and the probable
8 time of his or her return to the center.

9 (17) "Sexually exploited child" means any person under the age of
10 eighteen who is a victim of the crime of commercial sex abuse of a
11 minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a
12 minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual
13 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102.

14 (18) "Staff secure facility" means a structured group care
15 facility licensed under rules adopted by the department with a ratio
16 of at least one adult staff member to every two children.

17 (19) "Temporary out-of-home placement" means an out-of-home
18 placement of not more than fourteen days ordered by the court at a
19 fact-finding hearing on a child in need of services petition.

20 (20) "Family reconciliation services" means services provided by
21 culturally relevant, trauma-informed community-based entities under
22 contract with the department designed to assess and stabilize the
23 family with the goal of resolving crisis and building supports,
24 skills, and connection to community networks and resources including,
25 but not limited to:

26 (a) Referrals for services for suicide prevention, psychiatric or
27 other medical care, psychological care, behavioral health treatment,
28 legal assistance, or educational assistance;

29 (b) Parent training;

30 (c) Assistance with conflict management or dispute resolution; or

31 (d) Other social services, as appropriate to meet the needs of
32 the child and the family.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.040 and 2000 c 123 s 3 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 ~~((Families))~~ (1) The department, or a designated contractor of
36 the department, shall offer family reconciliation services to
37 families or youth who are ((in)) experiencing conflict ((or)) and who
38 ((are experiencing problems with at-risk youth or a child who)) may
39 be in need of services ((may request family reconciliation services

1 ~~from the department))~~ upon request from the family and subject to the
2 availability of funding appropriated for this specific purpose.

3 (2) The department may involve a local multidisciplinary team in
4 its response in determining the services to be provided and in
5 providing those services. Such services shall be provided to
6 alleviate personal or family situations which present a serious and
7 imminent threat to the health or stability of the child or family and
8 to maintain families intact wherever possible. (~~Family~~
9 ~~reconciliation services shall be designed to develop skills and~~
10 ~~supports within families to resolve problems related to at-risk~~
11 ~~youth, children in need of services, or family conflicts. These~~
12 ~~services may include but are not limited to referral to services for~~
13 ~~suicide prevention, psychiatric or other medical care, or~~
14 ~~psychological, mental health, drug or alcohol treatment, welfare,~~
15 ~~legal, educational, or other social services, as appropriate to the~~
16 ~~needs of the child and the family, and training in parenting,~~
17 ~~conflict management, and dispute resolution skills.))~~

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.32A.150 and 2019 c 312 s 10 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the juvenile
21 court shall not accept the filing of a child in need of services
22 petition by the child or the parents or the filing of an at-risk
23 youth petition by the parent, unless verification is provided that
24 the department, or a community-based entity under contract with the
25 department, has completed a family assessment. The family assessment
26 shall involve the multidisciplinary team if one exists. The family
27 assessment or plan of services developed by the multidisciplinary
28 team shall be aimed at family reconciliation, reunification, and
29 avoidance of the out-of-home placement of the child.

30 (2) A child or a child's parent may file with the juvenile court
31 a child in need of services petition to approve an out-of-home
32 placement for the child before completion of a family assessment. The
33 department shall, when requested, assist either a parent or child in
34 the filing of the petition. The petition must be filed in the county
35 where the parent resides. The petition shall allege that the child is
36 a child in need of services and shall ask only that the placement of
37 a child outside the home of his or her parent be approved. The filing
38 of a petition to approve the placement is not dependent upon the
39 court's having obtained any prior jurisdiction over the child or his

1 or her parent, and confers upon the court a special jurisdiction to
2 approve or disapprove an out-of-home placement under this chapter.

3 (3) A petition may not be filed if the child is the subject of a
4 proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 13.32A
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, in
8 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department shall provide a report
9 to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the use of family
10 reconciliation services which includes:

11 (a) The number of requests for family reconciliation services;

12 (b) The number of referrals made for family reconciliation
13 services;

14 (c) The demographic profile of families and youth accessing
15 family reconciliation services including race, ethnicity, housing
16 status, child welfare history, existence of an individualized
17 education program, eligibility for services under 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701,
18 or eligibility for other disability-related services;

19 (d) The nature of the family conflict;

20 (e) The type and length of the family reconciliation services
21 delivered;

22 (f) Family outcomes after receiving family reconciliation
23 services; and

24 (g) Recommendations for improving family reconciliation services.

25 (2) If the department cannot provide the information specified
26 under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall include a
27 plan detailing how the department will obtain and report this
28 information in the report required under subsection (1) of this
29 section.

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