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**HOUSE BILL 1509**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Taylor, Dent, Davis, Reed, and Hill

Read first time 01/22/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to family reconciliation services; amending RCW  
2 13.32A.040 and 13.32A.045; reenacting and amending RCW 13.32A.030;  
3 and adding a new section to chapter 13.32A RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.32A.030 and 2020 c 51 s 1 are each reenacted and  
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) "Community-based family reconciliation services" means family  
34 reconciliation services as defined in this section that are provided  
35 by a community-based entity under contract with the department.

36 ~~((7))~~ (8) "Crisis residential center" means a secure or semi-  
37 secure facility established pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW.

38 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Custodian" means the person or entity that has the  
39 legal right to custody of the child.

1       (~~(9)~~) (10) "Department" means the department of children,  
2 youth, and families.

3       (~~(10)~~) (11) "Extended family member" means an adult who is a  
4 grandparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt,  
5 or first cousin with whom the child has a relationship and is  
6 comfortable, and who is willing and available to care for the child.

7       (~~(11)~~) (12) "Family reconciliation services" means services  
8 provided by culturally relevant, trauma-informed community-based  
9 entities under contract with the department, or provided directly by  
10 the department, designed to assess and stabilize the family with the  
11 goal of resolving crisis and building supports, skills, and  
12 connection to community networks and resources including, but not  
13 limited to:

14       (a) Referrals for services for suicide prevention, psychiatric or  
15 other medical care, psychological care, behavioral health treatment,  
16 legal assistance, or educational assistance;

17       (b) Parent training;

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

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

21       (~~(12)~~) (13) "Guardian" means the person or agency that (a) has  
22 been appointed as the guardian of a child in a legal proceeding other  
23 than a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, and (b) has the legal  
24 right to custody of the child pursuant to such appointment. The term  
25 "guardian" does not include a "dependency guardian" appointed  
26 pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

27       (~~(13)~~) (14) "Multidisciplinary team" means a group formed to  
28 provide assistance and support to a child who is an at-risk youth or  
29 a child in need of services and his or her parent. The team must  
30 include the parent, a department caseworker, a local government  
31 representative when authorized by the local government, and when  
32 appropriate, members from the mental health and substance abuse  
33 disciplines. The team may also include, but is not limited to, the  
34 following persons: Educators, law enforcement personnel, probation  
35 officers, employers, church persons, tribal members, therapists,  
36 medical personnel, social service providers, placement providers, and  
37 extended family members. The team members must be volunteers who do  
38 not receive compensation while acting in a capacity as a team member,  
39 unless the member's employer chooses to provide compensation or the  
40 member is a state employee.

1        ~~((14))~~ (15) "Out-of-home placement" means a placement in a  
2 foster family home or group care facility licensed pursuant to  
3 chapter 74.15 RCW or placement in a home, other than that of the  
4 child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, not required to be  
5 licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

6        ~~((15))~~ (16) "Parent" means the parent or parents who have the  
7 legal right to custody of the child. "Parent" includes custodian or  
8 guardian.

9        ~~((16))~~ (17) "Secure facility" means a crisis residential  
10 center, or portion thereof, that has locking doors, locking windows,  
11 or a secured perimeter, designed and operated to prevent a child from  
12 leaving without permission of the facility staff.

13        ~~((17))~~ (18) "Semi-secure facility" means any facility,  
14 including but not limited to crisis residential centers or  
15 specialized foster family homes, operated in a manner to reasonably  
16 assure that youth placed there will not run away. Pursuant to rules  
17 established by the department, the facility administrator shall  
18 establish reasonable hours for residents to come and go from the  
19 facility such that no residents are free to come and go at all hours  
20 of the day and night. To prevent residents from taking unreasonable  
21 actions, the facility administrator, where appropriate, may condition  
22 a resident's leaving the facility upon the resident being accompanied  
23 by the administrator or the administrator's designee and the resident  
24 may be required to notify the administrator or the administrator's  
25 designee of any intent to leave, his or her intended destination, and  
26 the probable time of his or her return to the center.

27        ~~((18))~~ (19) "Sexually exploited child" means any person under  
28 the age of eighteen who is a victim of the crime of commercial sex  
29 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual  
30 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for  
31 commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102.

32        ~~((19))~~ (20) "Staff secure facility" means a structured group  
33 care facility licensed under rules adopted by the department with a  
34 ratio of at least one adult staff member to every two children.

35        ~~((20))~~ (21) "Temporary out-of-home placement" means an out-of-  
36 home placement of not more than fourteen days ordered by the court at  
37 a fact-finding hearing on a child in need of services petition.

38        **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.040 and 2023 c 151 s 1 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1           (1) ~~((The))~~ Subject to the availability of funding appropriated  
2 for this specific purpose, the department, or a designated contractor  
3 of the department, shall:

4           (a) Offer family reconciliation services to families or youth who  
5 are experiencing conflict and who may be in need of services upon  
6 request from the family or youth ~~((and subject to the availability of~~  
7 ~~funding appropriated for this specific purpose))~~; ~~((and))~~

8           (b) Offer family reconciliation services to families or youth  
9 after receiving a report that a youth is away from a lawfully  
10 prescribed residence or home without parental permission under RCW  
11 13.32A.082(1). If the family or youth is being served by the  
12 community support team created under RCW 43.330.726, the department  
13 or designated contractor of the department must:

14           (i) Still offer family reconciliation services; and

15           (ii) Coordinate with the community support team created in RCW  
16 43.330.726;

17           (c) Offer family reconciliation services to families or youth,  
18 where the youth is in a county juvenile detention center and family  
19 conflict exists, upon request by the youth, family, or juvenile  
20 detention center; and

21           (d) Offer family reconciliation services to families or youth,  
22 where the youth is identified through the housing stability for youth  
23 in crisis program as described in RCW 43.330.724, upon request by the  
24 youth, family, or program.

25           (2) The department may involve a local multidisciplinary team in  
26 its response in determining the services to be provided and in  
27 providing those services. Such services shall be provided to  
28 alleviate personal or family situations which present a serious and  
29 imminent threat to the health or stability of the child or family and  
30 to maintain families intact wherever possible.

31           **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.32A.045 and 2020 c 51 s 4 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33           (1) Beginning December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, in  
34 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department shall make data  
35 available on the use of family reconciliation services which  
36 includes:

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

38           (b) The number of referrals made for family reconciliation  
39 services;

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

6 (d) The nature of the family conflict;

7 (e) The type and length of the family reconciliation services  
8 delivered;

9 (f) Family outcomes after receiving family reconciliation  
10 services; (~~and~~)

11 (g) Recommendations for improving family reconciliation services;

12 (h) The number of requests for community-based reconciliation  
13 services; and

14 (i) The number of referrals made to community-based family  
15 reconciliation services.

16 (2) If the department cannot provide the information specified  
17 under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall identify  
18 steps necessary to obtain and make available the information required  
19 under subsection (1) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 13.32A  
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 Subject to the amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
23 the department shall:

24 (1) By January 1, 2026, offer contracts to provide community-  
25 based family reconciliation services in at least three regions served  
26 by the department with at least two of these regions on the west side  
27 of the Cascade mountain range and at least one of these regions on  
28 the east side of the Cascade mountain range; and

29 (2) By January 1, 2030, offer contracts to provide community-  
30 based family reconciliation services statewide.

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