
HOUSE BILL 1134

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Scott, O'Brien, Ballasiotes, Lambert, Kessler, Stensen, Lovick, Keiser, Cooper, Hurst, Lantz, Ogden, Ruderman, Esser and Conway

Read first time 01/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to child abandonment; and amending RCW 9A.42.080.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.42.080 and 1996 c 302 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) A person is guilty of the crime of abandonment of a dependent
6 person in the third degree if:

7 (a) The person is the parent of a child, a person entrusted with
8 the physical custody of a child or other dependent person, or a person
9 employed to provide to the child or dependent person any of the basic
10 necessities of life; and

11 (b) The person recklessly abandons the child or other dependent
12 person; and:

13 (i) As a result of being abandoned, the child or other dependent
14 person suffers bodily harm; or

15 (ii) Abandoning the child or other dependent person creates an
16 imminent and substantial risk that the child or other person will
17 suffer substantial bodily harm.

18 (2) Knowingly leaving a child under the age of five years old
19 unattended for a period of one hour or more creates a rebuttable

1 presumption that the child has been recklessly abandoned under
2 circumstances creating an imminent and substantial risk of substantial
3 bodily harm to the child. For purposes of this subsection, leaving a
4 child unattended means leaving the child in a situation in which it is
5 not reasonable to believe that a responsible adult is available or that
6 a responsible adult could be summoned to respond to the needs of the
7 child.

8 (3) Abandonment of a dependent person in the third degree is a
9 gross misdemeanor.

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