

**2SSB 6006** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/29/2024**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.40.100 and 2017 c 126 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) A person is guilty of trafficking in the first degree when(~~(~~

6 ~~(a) Such person:~~

7 ~~(i) Recruits))~~ such person recruits, entices, harbors,  
8 transports, (~~(transfers))~~ isolates, solicits, provides, obtains,  
9 buys, purchases, maintains, or receives by any means another person  
10 (~~(knowing))~~ and:

11 (a)(i) Knows, or acts in reckless disregard of the fact, (~~(A))~~  
12 that force, fraud, or coercion (~~(as defined in RCW 9A.36.070))~~ will  
13 be used to cause the person to engage in(~~(~~

14 ~~(I) Forced labor;~~

15 ~~(II) Involuntary servitude;~~

16 ~~(III) A sexually explicit act; or~~

17 ~~(IV) A commercial sex act, or (B) that the person has not~~  
18 ~~attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in a~~  
19 ~~sexually explicit act or a commercial sex act; or~~

20 ~~(ii) Benefits))~~ forced labor, involuntary servitude, a sexually  
21 explicit act, or a commercial sex act; or

22 (ii) Such person knowingly, or in reckless disregard, causes a  
23 person under 18 years of age to engage in a sexually explicit act or  
24 commercial sex act, or benefits financially or by receiving anything  
25 of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set  
26 forth in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection; provided, that it is not  
27 a defense that such person did not know, or recklessly disregarded  
28 the fact, that the other person was under 18 years of age or believed  
29 the other person was older, as the case may be; and

30 (b) The acts or venture set forth in (a)(i) or (ii) of this  
31 subsection:

1 (i) Involve such person committing or attempting to commit  
2 kidnapping;

3 (ii) Involve a finding of sexual motivation (~~under RCW~~  
4 ~~9.94A.835~~));

5 (iii) Involve the illegal harvesting or sale of human organs; or

6 (iv) Result in a death.

7 (2) Trafficking in the first degree is a class A felony.

8 (3) (~~(a)~~) A person is guilty of trafficking in the second degree  
9 when such person (~~(~~

10 ~~(i) Recruits~~) recruits, entices, harbors, transports,  
11 ~~(transfers)~~ isolates, solicits, provides, obtains, buys, purchases,  
12 maintains, or receives by any means another person (knowing) and:

13 (a) Knows, or acts in reckless disregard of the fact, that force,  
14 fraud, or coercion (as defined in RCW 9A.36.070) will be used to  
15 cause the person to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, a  
16 sexually explicit act, or a commercial sex act (, or that the person  
17 has not attained the age of eighteen years and is caused to engage in  
18 a sexually explicit act or a commercial sex act; or

19 ~~(ii) Benefits~~) ; or

20 (b) Such person knowingly, or in reckless disregard, causes a  
21 person under 18 years of age to engage in a sexually explicit act or  
22 commercial sex act, or benefits financially or by receiving anything  
23 of value from participation in a venture that has engaged in acts set  
24 forth in (a) (~~(i)~~) or (b) of this subsection; provided, that it is  
25 not a defense that such person did not know, or recklessly  
26 disregarded the fact, that the other person was under 18 years of age  
27 or believed the other person was older, as the case may be.

28 (~~(b)~~) (4) Trafficking in the second degree is a class A felony.

29 (~~(4) (a)~~ ~~In any prosecution under this chapter in which the~~  
30 ~~offense or degree of the offense depends on the victim's age, it is~~  
31 ~~not a defense that the perpetrator did not know the victim's age, or~~  
32 ~~that the perpetrator believed the victim to be older, as the case may~~  
33 ~~be.~~

34 ~~(b)~~) (5) If the victim of any offense identified in this section  
35 is a minor, then force, fraud, or coercion are not necessary elements  
36 of an offense and consent to the sexually explicit act or commercial  
37 sex act does not constitute a defense.

38 (6) For purposes of this section:

39 (a) "Coercion" includes, but is not limited to, the following  
40 circumstances:

1 (i) Using or threatening to use physical force against any  
2 person;

3 (ii) Restraining, isolating, or confining or threatening to  
4 restrain, isolate, or confine any person without lawful authority and  
5 against their will;

6 (iii) Using lending or other credit methods to establish a debt  
7 by any person when labor or services are pledged as a security for  
8 the debt, constituting debt bondage, if the value of the labor or  
9 services are pledged as a security for the debt, the value of the  
10 labor or services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the  
11 liquidation of the debt, or the length and nature of the labor or  
12 services are not respectively limited and defined;

13 (iv) Destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, withholding,  
14 or possessing any actual or purported passport, visa, or other  
15 immigration document, or any other actual or purported government  
16 identification document, of any person;

17 (v) Causing or threatening to cause financial harm to any person;

18 (vi) Enticing or luring any person by fraud or deceit;

19 (vii) Providing or withholding any drug, alcohol, controlled  
20 substance, property, or necessities of life including money, food,  
21 lodging, or anything else of value that belongs to or was promised to  
22 another person knowing that this other person will be caused to  
23 engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude, a sexually explicit  
24 act, or a commercial sex act;

25 (viii) Accusing any person of a crime or causing criminal charges  
26 to be instituted against any person;

27 (ix) Exposing a secret or publicizing an asserted fact, whether  
28 true or false, tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt, or  
29 ridicule;

30 (x) Testifying or providing information, or withholding testimony  
31 or information, with respect to another's legal claim or defense;

32 (xi) Taking wrongful action as an official against anyone or  
33 anything, or wrongfully withholding official action, or causing such  
34 action or withholding;

35 (xii) Committing any other act which is intended to harm  
36 substantially the person threatened or another with respect to his or  
37 her health, safety, business, financial condition, or personal  
38 relationships; or

39 (xiii) Holding or returning a person to a condition of  
40 involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or forced labor, with the intent

1 of placing them in or returning them to a condition of involuntary  
2 servitude, debt bondage, or forced labor, where such condition is  
3 based on the alleged, implied, or actual inheritance of another's  
4 debt, constituting peonage.

5 (b) "Commercial sex act" means any act of sexual contact or  
6 sexual intercourse, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW, for which  
7 something of value is given or received by any person.

8 (c) "Kidnapping" means intentionally abducting another person.

9 (d) "Maintain" means, in relation to forced labor, involuntary  
10 servitude, a sexually explicit act, or a commercial sex act, to  
11 secure or make possible continued performance thereof, regardless of  
12 any initial agreement on the part of the victim to perform such  
13 labor, servitude, or act.

14 (e) "Sexual motivation" means that one of the purposes for which  
15 the defendant committed the crime was for the purpose of his or her  
16 sexual gratification.

17 (f) "Sexually explicit act" means a public, private, or live  
18 photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse  
19 or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of  
20 patrons for which something of value is given or received.

21 (7) A person who is (~~either~~) convicted (~~or~~), enters into a  
22 plea agreement to a reduced or different charge, is given a deferred  
23 sentence or a deferred prosecution, or (~~who has entered~~) enters  
24 into a statutory or nonstatutory diversion agreement as a result of  
25 an arrest for a violation of a trafficking crime shall be assessed a  
26 (~~ten thousand dollar~~) \$10,000 fee. The court shall not reduce,  
27 waive, or suspend payment of all or part of the fee assessed in this  
28 section unless it finds, on the record, that the offender does not  
29 have the ability to pay the fee in which case it may reduce the fee  
30 by an amount up to two-thirds of the maximum allowable fee.

31 ~~((c) The court shall not reduce, waive, or suspend payment of~~  
32 ~~all or part of the fee assessed in this section unless it finds, on~~  
33 ~~the record, that the offender does not have the ability to pay the~~  
34 ~~fee in which case it may reduce the fee by an amount up to two-thirds~~  
35 ~~of the maximum allowable fee.~~

36 ~~(d))~~ (8)(a) Fees assessed under this section shall be collected  
37 by the clerk of the court and remitted (~~to the treasurer of the~~  
38 county where the offense occurred for deposit in the county general  
39 fund, except in cases in which the offense occurred in a city or town  
40 that provides for its own law enforcement, in which case these

1 amounts shall be remitted to the treasurer of the city or town for  
2 deposit in the general fund of the city or town. Revenue from the  
3 fees must be used for local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of  
4 sex including, but not limited to, increasing enforcement of  
5 commercial sex laws.

6 (i) At least fifty percent of the revenue from fees imposed under  
7 this section must be spent on prevention, including education  
8 programs for offenders, such as john school, and rehabilitative  
9 services, such as mental health and substance abuse counseling,  
10 parenting skills, training, housing relief, education, vocational  
11 training, drop-in centers, and employment counseling.

12 (ii)) as follows:

13 (i) 45 percent to the treasurer of the county where the offense  
14 occurred for deposit in the county general fund, except in cases in  
15 which the offense occurred in a city or town that provides for its  
16 own law enforcement, in which case these amounts shall be remitted to  
17 the treasurer of the city or town for deposit in the general fund of  
18 the city or town, and which must be spent on services for victims of  
19 trafficking crimes in that jurisdiction;

20 (ii) 45 percent to the treasurer of the county where the offense  
21 occurred for deposit in the county general fund, except in cases in  
22 which the offense occurred in a city or town that provides for its  
23 own law enforcement, in which case these amounts shall be remitted to  
24 the treasurer of the city or town for deposit in the general fund of  
25 the city or town, and which must be spent on: (A) Local efforts to  
26 reduce the commercial sale of sex, including but not limited to  
27 increasing enforcement of commercial sex laws; (B) prevention,  
28 including education programs for offenders, such as programs to  
29 educate and divert persons from soliciting commercial sexual  
30 services; and (C) rehabilitative services, such as mental health and  
31 substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, training, housing  
32 relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers, and  
33 employment counseling; and

34 (iii) 10 percent must be retained by the clerks of the courts for  
35 their official services.

36 (b) Revenues from these fees are not subject to the distribution  
37 requirements under RCW 3.50.100, 3.62.020, 3.62.040, 10.82.070, or  
38 35.20.220.

39 ((5) If the victim of any offense identified in this section is  
40 a minor, force, fraud, or coercion are not necessary elements of an

1 ~~offense and consent to the sexually explicit act or commercial sex~~  
2 ~~act does not constitute a defense.~~

3 ~~(6) For purposes of this section:~~

4 ~~(a) "Commercial sex act" means any act of sexual contact or~~  
5 ~~sexual intercourse, both as defined in chapter 9A.44 RCW, for which~~  
6 ~~something of value is given or received by any person; and~~

7 ~~(b) "Sexually explicit act" means a public, private, or live~~  
8 ~~photographed, recorded, or videotaped act or show intended to arouse~~  
9 ~~or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interests of~~  
10 ~~patrons for which something of value is given or received.)~~

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state auditor must conduct a  
12 performance audit of the collection and use of mandatory fees  
13 assessed pursuant to RCW 9A.40.100. In addition to other measures  
14 established by the state auditor, the audit shall:

15 (a) Determine whether jurisdictions are assessing fees consistent  
16 with the requirements of RCW 9A.40.100;

17 (b) Determine whether jurisdictions are using the revenue from  
18 assessed fees to fund local efforts to reduce the commercial sale of  
19 sex as required by RCW 9A.40.100;

20 (c) Determine whether jurisdictions are using at least 50 percent  
21 of the revenue from assessed fees on prevention and rehabilitative  
22 services as required by RCW 9A.40.100; and

23 (d) If fees are not being assessed or used as required, make  
24 recommendations for corrective action.

25 (2) The state auditor may conduct the audit at a sample of  
26 jurisdictions as needed.

27 (3) The state auditor shall publish its final audit report no  
28 later than December 31, 2025.

29 (4) This section expires January 31, 2026.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
33 purpose, the commercially sexually exploited children statewide  
34 coordinating committee is established to facilitate a statewide  
35 coordinated response to the commercial sexual exploitation of  
36 children, youth, and young adults 24 years old and younger by relying  
37 on the voices of those with lived experience, qualitative and  
38 quantitative data, and the collective expertise of youth-serving

1 professionals and youth policy experts to increase supports,  
2 protections, and resource identification in the areas of prevention  
3 and intervention with a particular emphasis on improving the response  
4 of systems of care, including but not limited to child welfare,  
5 juvenile criminal legal, health care, and education.

6 (2) The committee is convened by the office of the attorney  
7 general with the department of commerce assisting with agenda  
8 planning and administrative and clerical support. The committee  
9 consists of the following members:

10 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
11 of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives;

13 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
14 senate appointed by the president of the senate;

15 (c) A representative of the governor's office appointed by the  
16 governor;

17 (d) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and  
18 families or his or her designee;

19 (e) The secretary of the juvenile rehabilitation administration  
20 or his or her designee;

21 (f) The attorney general or his or her designee;

22 (g) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her  
23 designee;

24 (h) A representative of the administrative office of the courts  
25 appointed by the administrative office of the courts;

26 (i) A representative of the Washington state patrol;

27 (j) The executive director of the Washington association of  
28 sheriffs and police chiefs or his or her designee;

29 (k) The executive director of the Washington state criminal  
30 justice training commission or his or her designee;

31 (l) A representative of the Washington association of prosecuting  
32 attorneys appointed by the association;

33 (m) The executive director of the office of public defense or his  
34 or her designee;

35 (n) Three representatives of community service providers that  
36 provide direct services to commercially sexually exploited children  
37 appointed by the attorney general;

38 (o) Two representatives of nongovernmental organizations familiar  
39 with the issues affecting commercially sexually exploited children  
40 appointed by the attorney general;

- 1 (p) The president of the superior court judges' association or  
2 his or her designee;
- 3 (q) The president of the juvenile court administrators or his or  
4 her designee;
- 5 (r) Any existing chairs of regional task forces on commercially  
6 sexually exploited children;
- 7 (s) A representative from the criminal defense bar;
- 8 (t) A representative of the center for children and youth  
9 justice;
- 10 (u) A representative from the office of crime victims advocacy;
- 11 (v) The executive director of the Washington coalition of sexual  
12 assault programs;
- 13 (w) The executive director of the statewide organization  
14 representing children's advocacy centers or his or her designee;
- 15 (x) A representative of an organization that provides inpatient  
16 chemical dependency treatment to youth, appointed by the attorney  
17 general;
- 18 (y) A representative of an organization that provides mental  
19 health treatment to youth, appointed by the attorney general;
- 20 (z) A survivor of human trafficking, appointed by the attorney  
21 general;
- 22 (aa) Two subject matter experts in intervention and prevention of  
23 commercial sexual exploitation of children, youth, and young adults;
- 24 (bb) A representative from a youth advocacy organization;
- 25 (cc) A representative from the office of homeless youth;
- 26 (dd) A representative from a homeless youth policy advocacy  
27 organization; and
- 28 (ee) A representative from the LGBTQ+ community.
- 29 (3) The duties of the committee include, but are not limited to:
- 30 (a) Overseeing and reviewing the implementation of the Washington  
31 state model protocol for commercially sexually exploited children at  
32 task force sites;
- 33 (b) Receiving reports and data from local and regional entities  
34 regarding the incidence of commercially sexually exploited children  
35 in their areas as well as data information regarding perpetrators,  
36 geographic data and location trends, and any other data deemed  
37 relevant;
- 38 (c) Receiving reports on local coordinated community response  
39 practices and results of the community responses;



1 (d) Reviewing recommendations from local and regional entities  
2 regarding policy and legislative changes that would improve the  
3 efficiency and effectiveness of local response practices;

4 (e) Making recommendations regarding policy and legislative  
5 changes that would improve the effectiveness of the state's response  
6 to and promote best practices for suppression of the commercial  
7 sexual exploitation of children;

8 (f) Making recommendations regarding data collection useful to  
9 understanding or addressing the problem of commercially sexually  
10 exploited children;

11 (g) Reviewing and making recommendations regarding strategic  
12 local investments or opportunities for federal and state funding to  
13 address the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

14 (h) Compiling data on the number of juveniles believed to be  
15 victims of sexual exploitation taken into custody under RCW  
16 43.185C.260;

17 (i) Making recommendations on how to fulfill and improve  
18 Washington's safe harbor law, chapter 331, Laws of 2020 (Engrossed  
19 Third Substitute House Bill 1775), including addressing the lack of  
20 receiving centers; and

21 (j) Coordinating efforts on behalf of commercially sexually  
22 exploited children and youth across the state so as to avoid  
23 duplicative efforts, use resources more efficiently, and increase  
24 awareness of available resources.

25 (4) The committee must meet no less than annually.

26 (5) The committee shall annually report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature and  
28 to any other known statewide committees addressing trafficking or the  
29 commercial sex trade.

30 (6) This section expires June 30, 2030.

## 31 **PART I - VICTIM IDENTIFICATION, REPORTING, AND SCREENING**

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 13.34.030 and 2021 c 304 s 1 and 2021 c 67 s 2 are  
33 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

34 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
35 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

36 (1) "Abandoned" means when the child's parent, guardian, or other  
37 custodian has expressed, either by statement or conduct, an intent to  
38 forego, for an extended period, parental rights or responsibilities

1 despite an ability to exercise such rights and responsibilities. If  
2 the court finds that the petitioner has exercised due diligence in  
3 attempting to locate the parent, no contact between the child and the  
4 child's parent, guardian, or other custodian for a period of three  
5 months creates a rebuttable presumption of abandonment, even if there  
6 is no expressed intent to abandon.

7 (2) "Child," "juvenile," and "youth" mean:

8 (a) Any individual under the age of eighteen years; or

9 (b) Any individual age eighteen to twenty-one years who is  
10 eligible to receive and who elects to receive the extended foster  
11 care services authorized under RCW 74.13.031. A youth who remains  
12 dependent and who receives extended foster care services under RCW  
13 74.13.031 shall not be considered a "child" under any other statute  
14 or for any other purpose.

15 (3) "Current placement episode" means the period of time that  
16 begins with the most recent date that the child was removed from the  
17 home of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian for purposes of  
18 placement in out-of-home care and continues until: (a) The child  
19 returns home; (b) an adoption decree, a permanent custody order, or  
20 guardianship order is entered; or (c) the dependency is dismissed,  
21 whichever occurs first.

22 (4) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and  
23 families.

24 (5) "Dependency guardian" means the person, nonprofit  
25 corporation, or Indian tribe appointed by the court pursuant to this  
26 chapter for the limited purpose of assisting the court in the  
27 supervision of the dependency.

28 (6) "Dependent child" means any child who:

29 (a) Has been abandoned;

30 (b) Is abused or neglected as defined in (~~chapter 26.44~~) RCW  
31 26.44.020 by a person legally responsible for the care of the child;

32 (c) Has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately  
33 caring for the child, such that the child is in circumstances which  
34 constitute a danger of substantial damage to the child's  
35 psychological or physical development; (~~or~~)

36 (d) Is receiving extended foster care services, as authorized by  
37 RCW 74.13.031; or

38 (e) Is a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking  
39 in persons under the trafficking victims protection act of 2000, 22  
40 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq., when the parent is involved in the

1 trafficking, facilitating the trafficking, or should have known that  
2 the child is being trafficked.

3 (7) "Developmental disability" means a disability attributable to  
4 intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another  
5 neurological or other condition of an individual found by the  
6 secretary of the department of social and health services to be  
7 closely related to an intellectual disability or to require treatment  
8 similar to that required for individuals with intellectual  
9 disabilities, which disability originates before the individual  
10 attains age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to  
11 continue indefinitely, and which constitutes a substantial limitation  
12 to the individual.

13 (8) "Educational liaison" means a person who has been appointed  
14 by the court to fulfill responsibilities outlined in RCW 13.34.046.

15 (9) "Experiencing homelessness" means lacking a fixed, regular,  
16 and adequate nighttime residence, including circumstances such as  
17 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic  
18 hardship, fleeing domestic violence, or a similar reason as described  
19 in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42  
20 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2021.

21 (10) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other  
22 support services the department is authorized to provide under RCW  
23 74.13.031. These services may include placement in licensed,  
24 relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent  
25 living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent  
26 living services; medical assistance; and counseling or treatment.

27 (11) "Guardian" means the person or agency that: (a) Has been  
28 appointed as the guardian of a child in a legal proceeding, including  
29 a guardian appointed pursuant to chapter 13.36 RCW; and (b) has the  
30 legal right to custody of the child pursuant to such appointment. The  
31 term "guardian" does not include a "dependency guardian" appointed  
32 pursuant to a proceeding under this chapter.

33 (12) "Guardian ad litem" means a person, appointed by the court  
34 to represent the best interests of a child in a proceeding under this  
35 chapter, or in any matter which may be consolidated with a proceeding  
36 under this chapter. A "court-appointed special advocate" appointed by  
37 the court to be the guardian ad litem for the child, or to perform  
38 substantially the same duties and functions as a guardian ad litem,  
39 shall be deemed to be guardian ad litem for all purposes and uses of  
40 this chapter.

1 (13) "Guardian ad litem program" means a court-authorized  
2 volunteer program, which is or may be established by the superior  
3 court of the county in which such proceeding is filed, to manage all  
4 aspects of volunteer guardian ad litem representation for children  
5 alleged or found to be dependent. Such management shall include but  
6 is not limited to: Recruitment, screening, training, supervision,  
7 assignment, and discharge of volunteers.

8 (14) "Guardianship" means a guardianship pursuant to chapter  
9 13.36 RCW or a limited guardianship of a minor pursuant to RCW  
10 11.130.215 or equivalent laws of another state or a federally  
11 recognized Indian tribe.

12 (15) "Housing assistance" means appropriate referrals by the  
13 department or other agencies to federal, state, local, or private  
14 agencies or organizations, assistance with forms, applications, or  
15 financial subsidies or other monetary assistance for housing. For  
16 purposes of this chapter, "housing assistance" is not a remedial  
17 service or family reunification service as described in RCW  
18 13.34.025(2).

19 (16) "Indigent" means a person who, at any stage of a court  
20 proceeding, is:

21 (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:  
22 Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled  
23 assistance benefits, medical care services under RCW 74.09.035,  
24 pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans'  
25 benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred  
26 electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, or  
27 supplemental security income; or

28 (b) Involuntarily committed to a public mental health facility;  
29 or

30 (c) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of one hundred  
31 twenty-five percent or less of the federally established poverty  
32 level; or

33 (d) Unable to pay the anticipated cost of counsel for the matter  
34 before the court because his or her available funds are insufficient  
35 to pay any amount for the retention of counsel.

36 (17) "Nonminor dependent" means any individual age eighteen to  
37 twenty-one years who is participating in extended foster care  
38 services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

39 (18) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster family home  
40 or group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW or

1 placement in a home, other than that of the child's parent, guardian,  
2 or legal custodian, not required to be licensed pursuant to chapter  
3 74.15 RCW.

4 (19) "Parent" means the biological or adoptive parents of a  
5 child, or an individual who has established a parent-child  
6 relationship under RCW 26.26A.100, unless the legal rights of that  
7 person have been terminated by a judicial proceeding pursuant to this  
8 chapter, chapter 26.33 RCW, or the equivalent laws of another state  
9 or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

10 (20) "Prevention and family services and programs" means specific  
11 mental health prevention and treatment services, substance abuse  
12 prevention and treatment services, and in-home parent skill-based  
13 programs that qualify for federal funding under the federal family  
14 first prevention services act, P.L. 115-123. For purposes of this  
15 chapter, prevention and family services and programs are not remedial  
16 services or family reunification services as described in RCW  
17 13.34.025(2).

18 (21) "Prevention services" means preservation services, as  
19 defined in chapter 74.14C RCW, and other reasonably available  
20 services, including housing assistance, capable of preventing the  
21 need for out-of-home placement while protecting the child. Prevention  
22 services include, but are not limited to, prevention and family  
23 services and programs as defined in this section.

24 (22) "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program  
25 that meets the requirements provided in RCW 13.34.420, qualifies for  
26 funding under the family first prevention services act under 42  
27 U.S.C. Sec. 672(k), and, if located within Washington state, is  
28 licensed as a group care facility under chapter 74.15 RCW.

29 (23) "Relative" includes persons related to a child in the  
30 following ways:

31 (a) Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and  
32 including first cousins, second cousins, nephews or nieces, and  
33 persons of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of grand,  
34 great, or great-great;

35 (b) Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister;

36 (c) A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent as  
37 well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such  
38 persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance  
39 with state law;

1 (d) Spouses of any persons named in (a), (b), or (c) of this  
2 subsection, even after the marriage is terminated;

3 (e) Relatives, as named in (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this  
4 subsection, of any half sibling of the child; or

5 (f) Extended family members, as defined by the law or custom of  
6 the Indian child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, a  
7 person who has reached the age of eighteen and who is the Indian  
8 child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law  
9 or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or  
10 stepparent who provides care in the family abode on a twenty-four  
11 hour basis to an Indian child as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903(4).

12 (24) "Shelter care" means temporary physical care in a facility  
13 licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.030 or in a home not required to be  
14 licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.030.

15 (25) "Sibling" means a child's birth brother, birth sister,  
16 adoptive brother, adoptive sister, half-brother, or half-sister, or  
17 as defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe for an  
18 Indian child as defined in RCW 13.38.040.

19 (26) "Social study" means a written evaluation of matters  
20 relevant to the disposition of the case that contains the information  
21 required by RCW 13.34.430.

22 (27) "Supervised independent living" includes, but is not limited  
23 to, apartment living, room and board arrangements, college or  
24 university dormitories, and shared roommate settings. Supervised  
25 independent living settings must be approved by the department or the  
26 court.

27 (28) "Voluntary placement agreement" means, for the purposes of  
28 extended foster care services, a written voluntary agreement between  
29 a nonminor dependent who agrees to submit to the care and authority  
30 of the department for the purposes of participating in the extended  
31 foster care program.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 26.44.020 and 2023 c 122 s 5 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
35 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

36 (1) "Abuse or neglect" means sexual abuse, sexual exploitation,  
37 female genital mutilation as defined in RCW 18.130.460, trafficking  
38 as described in RCW 9A.40.100, sex trafficking or severe forms of  
39 trafficking in persons under the trafficking victims protection act

1 of 2000, 22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq., or injury of a child by any  
2 person under circumstances which cause harm to the child's health,  
3 welfare, or safety, excluding conduct permitted under RCW 9A.16.100;  
4 or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person  
5 responsible for or providing care to the child. An abused child is a  
6 child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in  
7 this section.

8 (2) "Child" or "children" means any person under the age of  
9 eighteen years of age.

10 (3) "Child forensic interview" means a developmentally sensitive  
11 and legally sound method of gathering factual information regarding  
12 allegations of child abuse, child neglect, or exposure to violence.  
13 This interview is conducted by a competently trained, neutral  
14 professional utilizing techniques informed by research and best  
15 practice as part of a larger investigative process.

16 (4) "Child protective services" means those services provided by  
17 the department designed to protect children from child abuse and  
18 neglect and safeguard such children from future abuse and neglect,  
19 and conduct investigations of child abuse and neglect reports.  
20 Investigations may be conducted regardless of the location of the  
21 alleged abuse or neglect. Child protective services includes referral  
22 to services to ameliorate conditions that endanger the welfare of  
23 children, the coordination of necessary programs and services  
24 relevant to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child  
25 abuse and neglect, and services to children to ensure that each child  
26 has a permanent home. In determining whether protective services  
27 should be provided, the department shall not decline to provide such  
28 services solely because of the child's unwillingness or developmental  
29 inability to describe the nature and severity of the abuse or  
30 neglect.

31 (5) "Child protective services section" means the child  
32 protective services section of the department.

33 (6) "Child who is a candidate for foster care" means a child who  
34 the department identifies as being at imminent risk of entering  
35 foster care but who can remain safely in the child's home or in a  
36 kinship placement as long as services or programs that are necessary  
37 to prevent entry of the child into foster care are provided, and  
38 includes but is not limited to a child whose adoption or guardianship  
39 arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would  
40 result in a foster care placement. The term includes a child for whom

1 there is reasonable cause to believe that any of the following  
2 circumstances exist:

3 (a) The child has been abandoned by the parent as defined in RCW  
4 13.34.030 and the child's health, safety, and welfare is seriously  
5 endangered as a result;

6 (b) The child has been abused or neglected as defined in this  
7 chapter and the child's health, safety, and welfare is seriously  
8 endangered as a result;

9 (c) There is no parent capable of meeting the child's needs such  
10 that the child is in circumstances that constitute a serious danger  
11 to the child's development;

12 (d) The child is otherwise at imminent risk of harm.

13 (7) "Children's advocacy center" means a child-focused facility  
14 in good standing with the state chapter for children's advocacy  
15 centers and that coordinates a multidisciplinary process for the  
16 investigation, prosecution, and treatment of sexual and other types  
17 of child abuse. Children's advocacy centers provide a location for  
18 forensic interviews and coordinate access to services such as, but  
19 not limited to, medical evaluations, advocacy, therapy, and case  
20 review by multidisciplinary teams within the context of county  
21 protocols as defined in RCW 26.44.180 and 26.44.185.

22 (8) "Clergy" means any regularly licensed or ordained minister,  
23 priest, or rabbi of any church or religious denomination, whether  
24 acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any  
25 public or private organization or institution.

26 (9) "Court" means the superior court of the state of Washington,  
27 juvenile department.

28 (10) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and  
29 families.

30 (11) "Experiencing homelessness" means lacking a fixed, regular,  
31 and adequate nighttime residence, including circumstances such as  
32 sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic  
33 hardship, fleeing domestic violence, or a similar reason as described  
34 in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42  
35 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2021.

36 (12) "Family assessment" means a comprehensive assessment of  
37 child safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, and family  
38 strengths and needs that is applied to a child abuse or neglect  
39 report. Family assessment does not include a determination as to  
40 whether child abuse or neglect occurred, but does determine the need



1 for services to address the safety of the child and the risk of  
2 subsequent maltreatment.

3 (13) "Family assessment response" means a way of responding to  
4 certain reports of child abuse or neglect made under this chapter  
5 using a differential response approach to child protective services.  
6 The family assessment response shall focus on the safety of the  
7 child, the integrity and preservation of the family, and shall assess  
8 the status of the child and the family in terms of risk of abuse and  
9 neglect including the parent's or guardian's or other caretaker's  
10 capacity and willingness to protect the child and, if necessary, plan  
11 and arrange the provision of services to reduce the risk and  
12 otherwise support the family. No one is named as a perpetrator, and  
13 no investigative finding is entered in the record as a result of a  
14 family assessment.

15 (14) "Founded" means the determination following an investigation  
16 by the department that, based on available information, it is more  
17 likely than not that child abuse or neglect did occur.

18 (15) "Inconclusive" means the determination following an  
19 investigation by the department of social and health services, prior  
20 to October 1, 2008, that based on available information a decision  
21 cannot be made that more likely than not, child abuse or neglect did  
22 or did not occur.

23 (16) "Institution" means a private or public hospital or any  
24 other facility providing medical diagnosis, treatment, or care.

25 (17) "Law enforcement agency" means the police department, the  
26 prosecuting attorney, the state patrol, the director of public  
27 safety, or the office of the sheriff.

28 (18) "Malice" or "maliciously" means an intent, wish, or design  
29 to intimidate, annoy, or injure another person. Such malice may be  
30 inferred from an act done in willful disregard of the rights of  
31 another, or an act wrongfully done without just cause or excuse, or  
32 an act or omission of duty betraying a willful disregard of social  
33 duty.

34 (19) "Negligent treatment or maltreatment" means an act or a  
35 failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct,  
36 behavior, or inaction, that evidences a serious disregard of  
37 consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present  
38 danger to a child's health, welfare, or safety, including but not  
39 limited to conduct prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100. When considering  
40 whether a clear and present danger exists, evidence of a parent's

1 substance abuse as a contributing factor to negligent treatment or  
2 maltreatment shall be given great weight. The fact that siblings  
3 share a bedroom is not, in and of itself, negligent treatment or  
4 maltreatment. Poverty, experiencing homelessness, or exposure to  
5 domestic violence as defined in RCW 7.105.010 that is perpetrated  
6 against someone other than the child does not constitute negligent  
7 treatment or maltreatment in and of itself.

8 (20) "Pharmacist" means any registered pharmacist under chapter  
9 18.64 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee  
10 or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

11 (21) "Practitioner of the healing arts" or "practitioner" means a  
12 person licensed by this state to practice podiatric medicine and  
13 surgery, optometry, chiropractic, nursing, dentistry, osteopathic  
14 medicine and surgery, or medicine and surgery or to provide other  
15 health services. The term "practitioner" includes a duly accredited  
16 Christian Science practitioner. A person who is being furnished  
17 Christian Science treatment by a duly accredited Christian Science  
18 practitioner will not be considered, for that reason alone, a  
19 neglected person for the purposes of this chapter.

20 (22) "Prevention and family services and programs" means specific  
21 mental health prevention and treatment services, substance abuse  
22 prevention and treatment services, and in-home parent skill-based  
23 programs that qualify for federal funding under the federal family  
24 first prevention services act, P.L. 115-123. For purposes of this  
25 chapter, prevention and family services and programs are not remedial  
26 services or family reunification services as described in RCW  
27 13.34.025(2).

28 (23) "Professional school personnel" include, but are not limited  
29 to, teachers, counselors, administrators, child care facility  
30 personnel, and school nurses.

31 (24) "Psychologist" means any person licensed to practice  
32 psychology under chapter 18.83 RCW, whether acting in an individual  
33 capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private  
34 organization or institution.

35 (25) "Screened-out report" means a report of alleged child abuse  
36 or neglect that the department has determined does not rise to the  
37 level of a credible report of abuse or neglect and is not referred  
38 for investigation.

39 (26) "Sexual exploitation" includes: (a) Allowing, permitting, or  
40 encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or (b)

1 allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or  
2 pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child by any  
3 person.

4 (27) "Sexually aggressive youth" means a child who is defined in  
5 RCW 74.13.075(1)(b) as being a sexually aggressive youth.

6 (28) "Social service counselor" means anyone engaged in a  
7 professional capacity during the regular course of employment in  
8 encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support, or education  
9 of children, or providing social services to adults or families,  
10 including mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, and domestic  
11 violence programs, whether in an individual capacity, or as an  
12 employee or agent of any public or private organization or  
13 institution.

14 (29) "Unfounded" means the determination following an  
15 investigation by the department that available information indicates  
16 that, more likely than not, child abuse or neglect did not occur, or  
17 that there is insufficient evidence for the department to determine  
18 whether the alleged child abuse did or did not occur.

19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 26.44.030 and 2019 c 172 s 6 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1)(a) When any practitioner, county coroner or medical examiner,  
22 law enforcement officer, professional school personnel, registered or  
23 licensed nurse, social service counselor, psychologist, pharmacist,  
24 employee of the department of children, youth, and families, licensed  
25 or certified child care providers or their employees, employee of the  
26 department of social and health services, juvenile probation officer,  
27 diversion unit staff, placement and liaison specialist, responsible  
28 living skills program staff, HOPE center staff, state family and  
29 children's ombuds or any volunteer in the (~~ombuds's~~) ombuds'  
30 office, or host home program has reasonable cause to believe that a  
31 child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such  
32 incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement  
33 agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

34 (b) When any person, in his or her official supervisory capacity  
35 with a nonprofit or for-profit organization, has reasonable cause to  
36 believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect caused by a person  
37 over whom he or she regularly exercises supervisory authority, he or  
38 she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the  
39 proper law enforcement agency, provided that the person alleged to

1 have caused the abuse or neglect is employed by, contracted by, or  
2 volunteers with the organization and coaches, trains, educates, or  
3 counsels a child or children or regularly has unsupervised access to  
4 a child or children as part of the employment, contract, or voluntary  
5 service. No one shall be required to report under this section when  
6 he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a privileged  
7 communication as provided in RCW 5.60.060.

8 Nothing in this subsection (1)(b) shall limit a person's duty to  
9 report under (a) of this subsection.

10 For the purposes of this subsection, the following definitions  
11 apply:

12 (i) "Official supervisory capacity" means a position, status, or  
13 role created, recognized, or designated by any nonprofit or for-  
14 profit organization, either for financial gain or without financial  
15 gain, whose scope includes, but is not limited to, overseeing,  
16 directing, or managing another person who is employed by, contracted  
17 by, or volunteers with the nonprofit or for-profit organization.

18 (ii) "Organization" includes a sole proprietor, partnership,  
19 corporation, limited liability company, trust, association, financial  
20 institution, governmental entity, other than the federal government,  
21 and any other individual or group engaged in a trade, occupation,  
22 enterprise, governmental function, charitable function, or similar  
23 activity in this state whether or not the entity is operated as a  
24 nonprofit or for-profit entity.

25 (iii) "Reasonable cause" means a person witnesses or receives a  
26 credible written or oral report alleging abuse, including sexual  
27 contact, or neglect of a child.

28 (iv) "Regularly exercises supervisory authority" means to act in  
29 his or her official supervisory capacity on an ongoing or continuing  
30 basis with regards to a particular person.

31 (v) "Sexual contact" has the same meaning as in RCW 9A.44.010.

32 (c) The reporting requirement also applies to department of  
33 corrections personnel who, in the course of their employment, observe  
34 offenders or the children with whom the offenders are in contact. If,  
35 as a result of observations or information received in the course of  
36 his or her employment, any department of corrections personnel has  
37 reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or  
38 neglect, he or she shall report the incident, or cause a report to be  
39 made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as  
40 provided in RCW 26.44.040.

1 (d) The reporting requirement shall also apply to any adult who  
2 has reasonable cause to believe that a child who resides with them,  
3 has suffered severe abuse, and is able or capable of making a report.  
4 For the purposes of this subsection, "severe abuse" means any of the  
5 following: Any single act of abuse that causes physical trauma of  
6 sufficient severity that, if left untreated, could cause death; any  
7 single act of sexual abuse that causes significant bleeding, deep  
8 bruising, or significant external or internal swelling; or more than  
9 one act of physical abuse, each of which causes bleeding, deep  
10 bruising, significant external or internal swelling, bone fracture,  
11 or unconsciousness.

12 (e) The reporting requirement also applies to guardians ad litem,  
13 including court-appointed special advocates, appointed under Titles  
14 11 and 13 RCW and this title, who in the course of their  
15 representation of children in these actions have reasonable cause to  
16 believe a child has been abused or neglected.

17 (f) The reporting requirement in (a) of this subsection also  
18 applies to administrative and academic or athletic department  
19 employees, including student employees, of institutions of higher  
20 education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and of private institutions  
21 of higher education.

22 (g) The report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no  
23 case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to  
24 believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect. The report must  
25 include the identity of the accused if known.

26 (2) The reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section  
27 does not apply to the discovery of abuse or neglect that occurred  
28 during childhood if it is discovered after the child has become an  
29 adult. However, if there is reasonable cause to believe other  
30 children are or may be at risk of abuse or neglect by the accused,  
31 the reporting requirement of subsection (1) of this section does  
32 apply.

33 (3) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a  
34 child has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to the  
35 proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW  
36 26.44.040.

37 (4) The department, upon receiving a report of an incident of  
38 alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child  
39 who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon  
40 him or her other than by accidental means or who has been subjected

1 to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident to the proper law  
2 enforcement agency, including military law enforcement, if  
3 appropriate. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is  
4 endangered, the department shall notify the proper law enforcement  
5 agency within twenty-four hours after a report is received by the  
6 department. In all other cases, the department shall notify the law  
7 enforcement agency within seventy-two hours after a report is  
8 received by the department. If the department makes an oral report, a  
9 written report must also be made to the proper law enforcement agency  
10 within five days thereafter.

11 (5) Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident  
12 of alleged abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a  
13 child who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted  
14 upon him or her other than by accidental means, or who has been  
15 subjected to alleged sexual abuse, shall report such incident in  
16 writing as provided in RCW 26.44.040 to the proper county prosecutor  
17 or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement  
18 agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed.  
19 The law enforcement agency shall also notify the department of all  
20 reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of  
21 them. In emergency cases, where the child's welfare is endangered,  
22 the law enforcement agency shall notify the department within twenty-  
23 four hours. In all other cases, the law enforcement agency shall  
24 notify the department within seventy-two hours after a report is  
25 received by the law enforcement agency.

26 (6) Any county prosecutor or city attorney receiving a report  
27 under subsection (5) of this section shall notify the victim, any  
28 persons the victim requests, and the local office of the department,  
29 of the decision to charge or decline to charge a crime, within five  
30 days of making the decision.

31 (7) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and  
32 consultation with those persons or agencies required to report under  
33 this section, with consultants designated by the department, and with  
34 designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if the client  
35 information exchanged is pertinent to cases currently receiving child  
36 protective services. Upon request, the department shall conduct such  
37 planning and consultation with those persons required to report under  
38 this section if the department determines it is in the best interests  
39 of the child. Information considered privileged by statute and not

1 directly related to reports required by this section must not be  
2 divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.

3 (8) Any case referred to the department by a physician licensed  
4 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW on the basis of an expert medical  
5 opinion that child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault has occurred and  
6 that the child's safety will be seriously endangered if returned  
7 home, the department shall file a dependency petition unless a second  
8 licensed physician of the parents' choice believes that such expert  
9 medical opinion is incorrect. If the parents fail to designate a  
10 second physician, the department may make the selection. If a  
11 physician finds that a child has suffered abuse or neglect but that  
12 such abuse or neglect does not constitute imminent danger to the  
13 child's health or safety, and the department agrees with the  
14 physician's assessment, the child may be left in the parents' home  
15 while the department proceeds with reasonable efforts to remedy  
16 parenting deficiencies.

17 (9) Persons or agencies exchanging information under subsection  
18 (7) of this section shall not further disseminate or release the  
19 information except as authorized by state or federal statute.  
20 Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

21 (10) Upon receiving a report that a child is a candidate for  
22 foster care as defined in RCW 26.44.020, the department may provide  
23 prevention and family services and programs to the child's parents,  
24 guardian, or caregiver. The department may not be held civilly liable  
25 for the decision regarding whether to provide prevention and family  
26 services and programs, or for the provision of those services and  
27 programs, for a child determined to be a candidate for foster care.

28 (11) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect, the  
29 department shall make reasonable efforts to learn the name, address,  
30 and telephone number of each person making a report of abuse or  
31 neglect under this section. The department shall provide assurances  
32 of appropriate confidentiality of the identification of persons  
33 reporting under this section. If the department is unable to learn  
34 the information required under this subsection, the department shall  
35 only investigate cases in which:

36 (a) The department believes there is a serious threat of  
37 substantial harm to the child;

38 (b) The report indicates conduct involving a criminal offense  
39 that has, or is about to occur, in which the child is the victim; or

1 (c) The department has a prior founded report of abuse or neglect  
2 with regard to a member of the household that is within three years  
3 of receipt of the referral.

4 (12)(a) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect, the  
5 department shall use one of the following discrete responses to  
6 reports of child abuse or neglect that are screened in and accepted  
7 for departmental response:

8 (i) Investigation; or

9 (ii) Family assessment.

10 (b) In making the response in (a) of this subsection the  
11 department shall:

12 (i) Use a method by which to assign cases to investigation or  
13 family assessment which are based on an array of factors that may  
14 include the presence of: Imminent danger, level of risk, number of  
15 previous child abuse or neglect reports, or other presenting case  
16 characteristics, such as the type of alleged maltreatment and the age  
17 of the alleged victim. Age of the alleged victim shall not be used as  
18 the sole criterion for determining case assignment;

19 (ii) Allow for a change in response assignment based on new  
20 information that alters risk or safety level;

21 (iii) Allow families assigned to family assessment to choose to  
22 receive an investigation rather than a family assessment;

23 (iv) Provide a full investigation if a family refuses the initial  
24 family assessment;

25 (v) Provide voluntary services to families based on the results  
26 of the initial family assessment. If a family refuses voluntary  
27 services, and the department cannot identify specific facts related  
28 to risk or safety that warrant assignment to investigation under this  
29 chapter, and there is not a history of reports of child abuse or  
30 neglect related to the family, then the department must close the  
31 family assessment response case. However, if at any time the  
32 department identifies risk or safety factors that warrant an  
33 investigation under this chapter, then the family assessment response  
34 case must be reassigned to investigation;

35 (vi) Conduct an investigation, and not a family assessment, in  
36 response to an allegation that, the department determines based on  
37 the intake assessment:

38 (A) Indicates a child's health, safety, and welfare will be  
39 seriously endangered if not taken into custody for reasons including,



1 but not limited to, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of the child  
2 as defined in this chapter;

3 (B) Poses a serious threat of substantial harm to a child;

4 (C) Constitutes conduct involving a criminal offense that has, or  
5 is about to occur, in which the child is the victim;

6 (D) The child is an abandoned child as defined in RCW 13.34.030;

7 (E) The child is an adjudicated dependent child as defined in RCW  
8 13.34.030, or the child is in a facility that is licensed, operated,  
9 or certified for care of children by the department under chapter  
10 74.15 RCW.

11 (c) In addition, the department may use a family assessment  
12 response to assess for and provide prevention and family services and  
13 programs, as defined in RCW 26.44.020, for the following children and  
14 their families, consistent with requirements under the federal family  
15 first prevention services act and this section:

16 (i) A child who is a candidate for foster care, as defined in RCW  
17 26.44.020; and

18 (ii) A child who is in foster care and who is pregnant,  
19 parenting, or both.

20 (d) The department may not be held civilly liable for the  
21 decision to respond to an allegation of child abuse or neglect by  
22 using the family assessment response under this section unless the  
23 state or its officers, agents, or employees acted with reckless  
24 disregard.

25 (13)(a) For reports of alleged abuse or neglect that are accepted  
26 for investigation by the department, the investigation shall be  
27 conducted within time frames established by the department in rule.  
28 In no case shall the investigation extend longer than ninety days  
29 from the date the report is received, unless the investigation is  
30 being conducted under a written protocol pursuant to RCW 26.44.180  
31 and a law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney has determined  
32 that a longer investigation period is necessary. At the completion of  
33 the investigation, the department shall make a finding that the  
34 report of child abuse or neglect is founded or unfounded.

35 (b) If a court in a civil or criminal proceeding, considering the  
36 same facts or circumstances as are contained in the report being  
37 investigated by the department, makes a judicial finding by a  
38 preponderance of the evidence or higher that the subject of the  
39 pending investigation has abused or neglected the child, the  
40 department shall adopt the finding in its investigation.

1 (14) For reports of alleged abuse or neglect that are responded  
2 to through family assessment response, the department shall:

3 (a) Provide the family with a written explanation of the  
4 procedure for assessment of the child and the family and its  
5 purposes;

6 (b) Collaborate with the family to identify family strengths,  
7 resources, and service needs, and develop a service plan with the  
8 goal of reducing risk of harm to the child and improving or restoring  
9 family well-being;

10 (c) Complete the family assessment response within forty-five  
11 days of receiving the report except as follows:

12 (i) Upon parental agreement, the family assessment response  
13 period may be extended up to one hundred twenty days. The  
14 department's extension of the family assessment response period must  
15 be operated within the department's appropriations;

16 (ii) For cases in which the department elects to use a family  
17 assessment response as authorized under subsection (12)(c) of this  
18 section, and upon agreement of the child's parent, legal guardian,  
19 legal custodian, or relative placement, the family assessment  
20 response period may be extended up to one year. The department's  
21 extension of the family assessment response must be operated within  
22 the department's appropriations.

23 (d) Offer services to the family in a manner that makes it clear  
24 that acceptance of the services is voluntary;

25 (e) Implement the family assessment response in a consistent and  
26 cooperative manner;

27 (f) Have the parent or guardian agree to participate in services  
28 before services are initiated. The department shall inform the  
29 parents of their rights under family assessment response, all of  
30 their options, and the options the department has if the parents do  
31 not agree to participate in services.

32 (15)(a) In conducting an investigation or family assessment of  
33 alleged abuse or neglect, the department or law enforcement agency:

34 (i) May interview children. If the department determines that the  
35 response to the allegation will be family assessment response, the  
36 preferred practice is to request a parent's, guardian's, or  
37 custodian's permission to interview the child before conducting the  
38 child interview unless doing so would compromise the safety of the  
39 child or the integrity of the assessment. The interviews may be  
40 conducted on school premises, at day-care facilities, at the child's

1 home, or at other suitable locations outside of the presence of  
2 parents. If the allegation is investigated, parental notification of  
3 the interview must occur at the earliest possible point in the  
4 investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of  
5 the child or the course of the investigation. Prior to commencing the  
6 interview the department or law enforcement agency shall determine  
7 whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the  
8 interview and, if so, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate  
9 the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, the department or law  
10 enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to include a third  
11 party in any interview so long as the presence of the third party  
12 will not jeopardize the course of the investigation; and

13 (ii) Shall have access to all relevant records of the child in  
14 the possession of mandated reporters and their employees.

15 (b) The Washington state school directors' association shall  
16 adopt a model policy addressing protocols when an interview, as  
17 authorized by this subsection, is conducted on school premises. In  
18 formulating its policy, the association shall consult with the  
19 department and the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
20 chiefs.

21 (16) If a report of alleged abuse or neglect is founded and  
22 constitutes the third founded report received by the department  
23 within the last twelve months involving the same child or family, the  
24 department shall promptly notify the office of the family and  
25 children's ombuds of the contents of the report. The department shall  
26 also notify the ombuds of the disposition of the report.

27 (17) In investigating and responding to allegations of child  
28 abuse and neglect, the department may conduct background checks as  
29 authorized by state and federal law.

30 (18)(a) The department shall maintain investigation records and  
31 conduct timely and periodic reviews of all founded cases of abuse and  
32 neglect. The department shall maintain a log of screened-out  
33 nonabusive cases.

34 (b) In the family assessment response, the department shall not  
35 make a finding as to whether child abuse or neglect occurred. No one  
36 shall be named as a perpetrator and no investigative finding shall be  
37 entered in the department's child abuse or neglect database.

38 (19) The department shall use a risk assessment process when  
39 investigating alleged child abuse and neglect referrals. The  
40 department shall present the risk factors at all hearings in which

1 the placement of a dependent child is an issue. Substance abuse must  
2 be a risk factor.

3 (20) Upon receipt of a report of alleged abuse or neglect the law  
4 enforcement agency may arrange to interview the person making the  
5 report and any collateral sources to determine if any malice is  
6 involved in the reporting.

7 (21) Upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect  
8 involving a child under the court's jurisdiction under chapter 13.34  
9 RCW, the department shall promptly notify the child's guardian ad  
10 litem of the report's contents. The department shall also notify the  
11 guardian ad litem of the disposition of the report. For purposes of  
12 this subsection, "guardian ad litem" has the meaning provided in RCW  
13 13.34.030.

14 (22) The department shall make efforts as soon as practicable to  
15 determine the military status of parents whose children are subject  
16 to abuse or neglect allegations. If the department determines that a  
17 parent or guardian is in the military, the department shall notify a  
18 department of defense family advocacy program that there is an  
19 allegation of abuse and neglect that is screened in and open for  
20 investigation that relates to that military parent or guardian.

21 (23) The department shall make available on its public website a  
22 downloadable and printable poster that includes the reporting  
23 requirements included in this section. The poster must be no smaller  
24 than eight and one-half by eleven inches with all information on one  
25 side. The poster must be made available in both the English and  
26 Spanish languages. Organizations that include employees or volunteers  
27 subject to the reporting requirements of this section must clearly  
28 display this poster in a common area. At a minimum, this poster must  
29 include the following:

- 30 (a) Who is required to report child abuse and neglect;
- 31 (b) The standard of knowledge to justify a report;
- 32 (c) The definition of reportable crimes;
- 33 (d) Where to report suspected child abuse and neglect; and
- 34 (e) What should be included in a report and the appropriate  
35 timing.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 26.44  
37 RCW to read as follows:

38 (1) The department must use a validated assessment tool to screen  
39 a child for commercial sexual abuse of a minor if a report of abuse

1 and neglect under RCW 26.44.030 alleges commercial sexual abuse of a  
2 minor.

3 (2) Whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that a child  
4 under the jurisdiction of a juvenile justice agency has suffered  
5 commercial sexual abuse of a minor, the juvenile justice agency must  
6 use a validated assessment tool to screen the child for commercial  
7 sexual abuse of a minor and report such abuse and neglect pursuant to  
8 RCW 26.44.030.

9 (3) For purposes of this section, "juvenile justice agency" means  
10 any of the following: Law enforcement; diversion units; juvenile  
11 courts; detention centers; and persons or public or private agencies  
12 having children committed to their custody.

13 **Sec. 8.** RCW 74.13.031 and 2023 c 221 s 3 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The department shall develop, administer, supervise, and  
16 monitor a coordinated and comprehensive plan that establishes, aids,  
17 and strengthens services for the protection and care of runaway,  
18 dependent, or neglected children.

19 (2) Within available resources, the department shall recruit an  
20 adequate number of prospective adoptive and foster homes, both  
21 regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority,  
22 including Indian homes for Indian children, sibling groups, children  
23 with disabilities or behavioral health conditions, teens, pregnant  
24 and parenting teens, and the department shall annually provide data  
25 and information to the governor and the legislature concerning the  
26 department's success in: (a) Placing children with relatives; (b)  
27 providing supports to kinship caregivers including guardianship  
28 assistance payments; (c) supporting relatives to pass home studies  
29 and become licensed caregivers; and (d) meeting the need for  
30 nonrelative family foster homes when children cannot be placed with  
31 relatives.

32 (3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act  
33 or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results  
34 in death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or  
35 exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and  
36 on the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child  
37 welfare services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal  
38 custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the  
39 situation to the attention of an appropriate court, or another

1 community agency. An investigation is not required of nonaccidental  
2 injuries which are clearly not the result of a lack of care or  
3 supervision by the child's parents, legal custodians, or persons  
4 serving in loco parentis. If the investigation reveals that a crime  
5 against a child may have been committed, the department shall notify  
6 the appropriate law enforcement agency.

7 (4) The department shall make recommendations to the legislature  
8 about the types of services that need to be offered to children who  
9 have been identified by a state or local agency as being a victim of  
10 either sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking in persons  
11 described under the trafficking victims protection act of 2000, 22  
12 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.

13 (5) For children identified as victims of sex trafficking and  
14 victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons described under the  
15 trafficking victims protection act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et  
16 seq., the department:

17 (a) Shall assess and offer services to dependent children as  
18 described under RCW 13.34.030; and

19 (b) May assess and offer services to children who have not been  
20 found dependent.

21 (6) As provided in RCW 26.44.030, the department may respond to a  
22 report of child abuse or neglect by using the family assessment  
23 response.

24 ~~((+5))~~ (7) The department shall offer, on a voluntary basis,  
25 family reconciliation services to families who are in conflict.

26 ~~((+6))~~ (8) The department shall monitor placements of children  
27 in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies to assure the safety,  
28 well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the scope of  
29 the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW 74.13.010 and  
30 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-home care and in-  
31 home dependencies and their caregivers shall receive a private and  
32 individual face-to-face visit each month. The department shall  
33 randomly select no less than ten percent of the caregivers currently  
34 providing care to receive one unannounced face-to-face visit in the  
35 caregiver's home per year. No caregiver will receive an unannounced  
36 visit through the random selection process for two consecutive years.  
37 If the caseworker makes a good faith effort to conduct the  
38 unannounced visit to a caregiver and is unable to do so, that month's  
39 visit to that caregiver need not be unannounced. The department is  
40 encouraged to group monthly visits to caregivers by geographic area

1 so that in the event an unannounced visit cannot be completed, the  
2 caseworker may complete other required monthly visits. The department  
3 shall use a method of random selection that does not cause a fiscal  
4 impact to the department.

5 The department shall conduct the monthly visits with children and  
6 caregivers to whom it is providing child welfare services.

7 ~~((7))~~ (9) The department shall have authority to accept custody  
8 of children from parents and to accept custody of children from  
9 juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to provide  
10 child welfare services including placement for adoption, to provide  
11 for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental health  
12 care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to provide for  
13 the physical care of such children and make payment of maintenance  
14 costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-608 (25  
15 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives children  
16 for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the basis of  
17 race, creed, or color when considering applications in their  
18 placement for adoption.

19 ~~((8))~~ (10) The department may accept custody of children from  
20 parents through a voluntary placement agreement to provide child  
21 welfare services. The department may place children with a relative,  
22 a suitable person, or a licensed foster home under a voluntary  
23 placement agreement. In seeking a placement for a voluntary placement  
24 agreement, the department should consider the preferences of the  
25 parents and attempt to place with relatives or suitable persons over  
26 licensed foster care.

27 ~~((9))~~ (11) The department shall have authority to provide  
28 temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and who are  
29 admitted to crisis residential centers.

30 ~~((10))~~ (12) The department shall have authority to purchase  
31 care for children.

32 ~~((11))~~ (13) The department shall establish a children's  
33 services advisory committee which shall assist the secretary in the  
34 development of a partnership plan for utilizing resources of the  
35 public and private sectors, and advise on all matters pertaining to  
36 child welfare, licensing of child care agencies, adoption, and  
37 services related thereto. At least one member shall represent the  
38 adoption community.

39 ~~((12))~~ (14) (a) The department shall provide continued extended  
40 foster care services to nonminor dependents who are:

1 (i) Enrolled in a secondary education program or a secondary  
2 education equivalency program;

3 (ii) Enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or  
4 postsecondary vocational education program;

5 (iii) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote  
6 employment or remove barriers to employment;

7 (iv) Engaged in employment for eighty hours or more per month; or

8 (v) Not able to engage in any of the activities described in  
9 (a)(i) through (iv) of this subsection due to a documented medical  
10 condition.

11 (b) To be eligible for extended foster care services, the  
12 nonminor dependent must have been dependent at the time that he or  
13 she reached age eighteen years. If the dependency case of the  
14 nonminor dependent was dismissed pursuant to RCW 13.34.267, he or she  
15 may receive extended foster care services pursuant to a voluntary  
16 placement agreement under RCW 74.13.336 or pursuant to an order of  
17 dependency issued by the court under RCW 13.34.268. A nonminor  
18 dependent whose dependency case was dismissed by the court may  
19 request extended foster care services before reaching age twenty-one  
20 years. Eligible nonminor dependents may unenroll and reenroll in  
21 extended foster care through a voluntary placement agreement an  
22 unlimited number of times between ages eighteen and twenty-one.

23 (c) The department shall develop and implement rules regarding  
24 youth eligibility requirements.

25 (d) The department shall make efforts to ensure that extended  
26 foster care services maximize medicaid reimbursements. This must  
27 include the department ensuring that health and mental health  
28 extended foster care providers participate in medicaid, unless the  
29 condition of the extended foster care youth requires specialty care  
30 that is not available among participating medicaid providers or there  
31 are no participating medicaid providers in the area. The department  
32 shall coordinate other services to maximize federal resources and the  
33 most cost-efficient delivery of services to extended foster care  
34 youth.

35 (e) The department shall allow a youth who has received extended  
36 foster care services, but lost his or her eligibility, to reenter the  
37 extended foster care program an unlimited number of times through a  
38 voluntary placement agreement when he or she meets the eligibility  
39 criteria again.



1        ~~((13))~~ (15) The department shall have authority to provide  
2 adoption support benefits on behalf of youth ages 18 to 21 years who  
3 achieved permanency through adoption at age 16 or older and who meet  
4 the criteria described in subsection ~~((12))~~ (14) of this section.

5        ~~((14))~~ (16) The department shall have the authority to provide  
6 guardianship subsidies on behalf of youth ages 18 to 21 who achieved  
7 permanency through guardianship and who meet the criteria described  
8 in subsection ~~((12))~~ (14) of this section.

9        ~~((15))~~ (17) The department shall refer cases to the division of  
10 child support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the  
11 care and maintenance of a child, including a child with a  
12 developmental disability who is placed as a result of an action under  
13 chapter 13.34 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good  
14 cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or  
15 parents of the child. Cases involving individuals age eighteen  
16 through twenty shall not be referred to the division of child support  
17 unless required by federal law.

18        ~~((16))~~ (18) The department shall have authority within funds  
19 appropriated for foster care services to purchase care for Indian  
20 children who are in the custody of a federally recognized Indian  
21 tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to parental  
22 consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order. The  
23 purchase of such care is exempt from the requirements of chapter  
24 74.13B RCW and may be purchased from the federally recognized Indian  
25 tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency, and shall be subject  
26 to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to  
27 other children for whom the department purchases care.

28        Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through  
29 13.32A.200, 43.185C.295, 74.13.035, and 74.13.036, or of this section  
30 all services to be provided by the department under subsections  
31 ~~((4), (7), and (9))~~ (6), (9), and (11) of this section, subject to  
32 the limitations of these subsections, may be provided by any program  
33 offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the  
34 federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

35        ~~((17))~~ (19) The department may, within funds appropriated for  
36 guardianship subsidies, provide subsidies for eligible guardians who  
37 are appointed as guardian of an Indian child by the tribal court of a  
38 federally recognized tribe located in Washington state, as defined in  
39 RCW 13.38.040. The provision of subsidies shall be subject to the  
40 same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other

1 children for whom the department provides subsidies. To be eligible,  
2 the guardian must either be certified by a department-licensed child-  
3 placing agency or licensed by a federally recognized tribe located in  
4 Washington state that is a Title IV-E agency, as defined in 45 C.F.R.  
5 1355.20.

6 ~~((18))~~ (20) Within amounts appropriated for this specific  
7 purpose, the department shall provide preventive services to families  
8 with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-of-home  
9 placement.

10 ~~((19))~~ (21) The department shall have authority to provide  
11 independent living services to youths, including individuals who have  
12 attained eighteen years of age, and have not attained twenty-three  
13 years of age, who are or have been in the department's care and  
14 custody, or who are or were nonminor dependents.

15 ~~((20))~~ (22) The department shall consult at least quarterly  
16 with foster parents, including members of the foster parent  
17 association of Washington state, for the purpose of receiving  
18 information and comment regarding how the department is performing  
19 the duties and meeting the obligations specified in this section and  
20 RCW 74.13.250 regarding the recruitment of foster homes, reducing  
21 foster parent turnover rates, providing effective training for foster  
22 parents, and administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that  
23 strengthens services for the protection of children. Consultation  
24 shall occur at the regional and statewide levels.

25 ~~((21))~~ (23)(a) The department shall, within current funding  
26 levels, place on its public website a document listing the duties and  
27 responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a  
28 dependency petition including, but not limited to, the following:

29 (i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services,  
30 toward reunification of the child with his or her family;

31 (ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW  
32 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);

33 (iii) Parent-child visits;

34 (iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other  
35 suitable person, if appropriate; and

36 (v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows  
37 the child to remain in the same school or school district, if  
38 practical and in the child's best interests.

39 (b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a  
40 community-based organization and must be updated as needed.



1 punishment on a vulnerable adult. In instances of abuse of a  
2 vulnerable adult who is unable to express or demonstrate physical  
3 harm, pain, or mental anguish, the abuse is presumed to cause  
4 physical harm, pain, or mental anguish. "Abuse" includes sexual  
5 abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, personal exploitation, and  
6 improper use of restraint against a vulnerable adult, which have the  
7 following meanings:

8 (a) "Improper use of restraint" means the inappropriate use of  
9 chemical, physical, or mechanical restraints for convenience or  
10 discipline, or in a manner that: (i) Is inconsistent with federal or  
11 state licensing or certification requirements for facilities,  
12 hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW; (ii) is  
13 not medically authorized; or (iii) otherwise constitutes abuse under  
14 this section.

15 (b) "Mental abuse" means an intentional, willful, or reckless  
16 verbal or nonverbal action that threatens, humiliates, harasses,  
17 coerces, intimidates, isolates, unreasonably confines, or punishes a  
18 vulnerable adult. "Mental abuse" may include ridiculing, yelling,  
19 swearing, or withholding or tampering with prescribed medications or  
20 their dosage.

21 (c) "Personal exploitation" means an act of forcing, compelling,  
22 or exerting undue influence over a vulnerable adult causing the  
23 vulnerable adult to act in a way that is inconsistent with relevant  
24 past behavior, or causing the vulnerable adult to perform services  
25 for the benefit of another.

26 (d) "Physical abuse" means the intentional, willful, or reckless  
27 action of inflicting bodily injury or physical mistreatment.  
28 "Physical abuse" includes, but is not limited to, striking with or  
29 without an object, slapping, pinching, strangulation, suffocation,  
30 kicking, shoving, or prodding.

31 (e) "Sexual abuse" means any form of nonconsensual sexual conduct  
32 including, but not limited to, unwanted or inappropriate touching,  
33 rape, molestation, indecent liberties, sexual coercion, sexually  
34 explicit photographing or recording, voyeurism, indecent exposure,  
35 and sexual harassment. "Sexual abuse" also includes any sexual  
36 conduct between a staff person, who is not also a resident or client,  
37 of a facility or a staff person of a program authorized under chapter  
38 71A.12 RCW, and a vulnerable adult living in that facility or  
39 receiving service from a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW,  
40 whether or not the sexual conduct is consensual.

1 (3) "Chemical restraint" means the administration of any drug to  
2 manage a vulnerable adult's behavior in a way that reduces the safety  
3 risk to the vulnerable adult or others, has the temporary effect of  
4 restricting the vulnerable adult's freedom of movement, and is not  
5 standard treatment for the vulnerable adult's medical or psychiatric  
6 condition.

7 (4) (a) "Coercive control" means a pattern of behavior that is  
8 used to cause another to suffer physical, emotional, or psychological  
9 harm, and in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a  
10 person's free will and personal liberty. In determining whether the  
11 interference is unreasonable, the court shall consider the context  
12 and impact of the pattern of behavior from the perspective of a  
13 similarly situated person. Examples of coercive control include, but  
14 are not limited to, engaging in any of the following:

15 (i) Intimidation or controlling or compelling conduct by:

16 (A) Damaging, destroying, or threatening to damage or destroy, or  
17 forcing the other party to relinquish, goods, property, or items of  
18 special value;

19 (B) Using technology to threaten, humiliate, harass, stalk,  
20 intimidate, exert undue influence over, or abuse the other party,  
21 including by engaging in cyberstalking, monitoring, surveillance,  
22 impersonation, manipulation of electronic media, or distribution of  
23 or threats to distribute actual or fabricated intimate images;

24 (C) Carrying, exhibiting, displaying, drawing, or threatening to  
25 use, any firearm or any other weapon apparently capable of producing  
26 bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and  
27 place that either manifests an intent to intimidate the other party  
28 or that warrants alarm by the other party for their safety or the  
29 safety of other persons;

30 (D) Driving recklessly with the other party or minor children in  
31 the vehicle;

32 (E) Communicating, directly or indirectly, the intent to:

33 (I) Harm the other party's children, family members, friends, or  
34 pets, including by use of physical forms of violence;

35 (II) Harm the other party's career;

36 (III) Attempt suicide or other acts of self-harm; or

37 (IV) Contact local or federal agencies based on actual or  
38 suspected immigration status;

39 (F) Exerting control over the other party's identity documents;

1 (G) Making, or threatening to make, private information public,  
2 including the other party's sexual orientation or gender identity,  
3 medical or behavioral health information, or other confidential  
4 information that jeopardizes safety; or

5 (H) Engaging in sexual or reproductive coercion;

6 (ii) Causing dependence, confinement, or isolation of the other  
7 party from friends, relatives, or other sources of support, including  
8 schooling and employment, or subjecting the other party to physical  
9 confinement or restraint;

10 (iii) Depriving the other party of basic necessities or  
11 committing other forms of financial exploitation;

12 (iv) Controlling, exerting undue influence over, interfering  
13 with, regulating, or monitoring the other party's movements,  
14 communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources, or  
15 employment, including but not limited to interference with or  
16 attempting to limit access to services for children of the other  
17 party, such as health care, medication, child care, or school-based  
18 extracurricular activities;

19 (v) Engaging in vexatious litigation or abusive litigation as  
20 defined in RCW 26.51.020 against the other party to harass, coerce,  
21 or control the other party, to diminish or exhaust the other party's  
22 financial resources, or to compromise the other party's employment or  
23 housing; or

24 (vi) Engaging in psychological aggression, including inflicting  
25 fear, humiliating, degrading, or punishing the other party.

26 (b) "Coercive control" does not include protective actions taken  
27 by a party in good faith for the legitimate and lawful purpose of  
28 protecting themselves or children from the risk of harm posed by the  
29 other party.

30 (5) "Commercial sexual exploitation" means commercial sexual  
31 abuse of a minor and sex trafficking.

32 (6) "Consent" in the context of sexual acts means that at the  
33 time of sexual contact, there are actual words or conduct indicating  
34 freely given agreement to that sexual contact. Consent must be  
35 ongoing and may be revoked at any time. Conduct short of voluntary  
36 agreement does not constitute consent as a matter of law. Consent  
37 cannot be freely given when a person does not have capacity due to  
38 disability, intoxication, or age. Consent cannot be freely given when  
39 the other party has authority or control over the care or custody of  
40 a person incarcerated or detained.

1       (~~(6)~~) (7) (a) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct  
2 composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short,  
3 evidencing a continuity of purpose. "Course of conduct" includes any  
4 form of communication, contact, or conduct, including the sending of  
5 an electronic communication, but does not include constitutionally  
6 protected free speech. Constitutionally protected activity is not  
7 included within the meaning of "course of conduct."

8       (b) In determining whether the course of conduct serves any  
9 legitimate or lawful purpose, a court should consider whether:

10       (i) Any current contact between the parties was initiated by the  
11 respondent only or was initiated by both parties;

12       (ii) The respondent has been given clear notice that all further  
13 contact with the petitioner is unwanted;

14       (iii) The respondent's course of conduct appears designed to  
15 alarm, annoy, or harass the petitioner;

16       (iv) The respondent is acting pursuant to any statutory authority  
17 including, but not limited to, acts which are reasonably necessary  
18 to:

19           (A) Protect property or liberty interests;

20           (B) Enforce the law; or

21           (C) Meet specific statutory duties or requirements;

22       (v) The respondent's course of conduct has the purpose or effect  
23 of unreasonably interfering with the petitioner's privacy or the  
24 purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive  
25 living environment for the petitioner; or

26       (vi) Contact by the respondent with the petitioner or the  
27 petitioner's family has been limited in any manner by any previous  
28 court order.

29       (~~(7)~~) (8) "Court clerk" means court administrators in courts of  
30 limited jurisdiction and elected court clerks.

31       (~~(8)~~) (9) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship of  
32 a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider in making this  
33 determination include: (a) The length of time the relationship has  
34 existed; (b) the nature of the relationship; and (c) the frequency of  
35 interaction between the parties.

36       (~~(9)~~) (10) "Domestic violence" means:

37       (a) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of  
38 fear of physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; nonconsensual  
39 sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration; coercive control;

1 unlawful harassment; or stalking of one intimate partner by another  
2 intimate partner; or

3 (b) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of  
4 fear of physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; nonconsensual  
5 sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration; coercive control;  
6 unlawful harassment; or stalking of one family or household member by  
7 another family or household member.

8 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Electronic monitoring" has the same meaning as in  
9 RCW 9.94A.030.

10 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Essential personal effects" means those items  
11 necessary for a person's immediate health, welfare, and livelihood.  
12 "Essential personal effects" includes, but is not limited to,  
13 clothing, cribs, bedding, medications, personal hygiene items,  
14 cellular phones and other electronic devices, and documents,  
15 including immigration, health care, financial, travel, and identity  
16 documents.

17 ~~((12))~~ (13) "Facility" means a residence licensed or required  
18 to be licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, assisted living facilities;  
19 chapter 18.51 RCW, nursing homes; chapter 70.128 RCW, adult family  
20 homes; chapter 72.36 RCW, soldiers' homes; chapter 71A.20 RCW,  
21 residential habilitation centers; or any other facility licensed or  
22 certified by the department of social and health services.

23 ~~((13))~~ (14) "Family or household members" means: (a) Persons  
24 related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, or adoption; (b)  
25 persons who currently or formerly resided together; (c) persons who  
26 have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including  
27 stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren, or a  
28 parent's intimate partner and children; and (d) a person who is  
29 acting or has acted as a legal guardian.

30 ~~((14))~~ (15) "Financial exploitation" means the illegal or  
31 improper use of, control over, or withholding of, the property,  
32 income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult by any  
33 person or entity for any person's or entity's profit or advantage  
34 other than for the vulnerable adult's profit or advantage. "Financial  
35 exploitation" includes, but is not limited to:

36 (a) The use of deception, intimidation, or undue influence by a  
37 person or entity in a position of trust and confidence with a  
38 vulnerable adult to obtain or use the property, income, resources,  
39 government benefits, health insurance benefits, or trust funds of the



1 vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the  
2 vulnerable adult;

3 (b) The breach of a fiduciary duty, including, but not limited  
4 to, the misuse of a power of attorney, trust, or a guardianship or  
5 conservatorship appointment, that results in the unauthorized  
6 appropriation, sale, or transfer of the property, income, resources,  
7 or trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or  
8 entity other than the vulnerable adult; or

9 (c) Obtaining or using a vulnerable adult's property, income,  
10 resources, or trust funds without lawful authority, by a person or  
11 entity who knows or clearly should know that the vulnerable adult  
12 lacks the capacity to consent to the release or use of the vulnerable  
13 adult's property, income, resources, or trust funds.

14 (~~(15)~~) (16) "Firearm" means a weapon or device from which a  
15 projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as  
16 gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include a flare gun or other  
17 pyrotechnic visual distress signaling device, or a powder-actuated  
18 tool or other device designed solely to be used for construction  
19 purposes. "Firearm" also includes parts that can be assembled to make  
20 a firearm.

21 (~~(16)~~) (17) "Full hearing" means a hearing where the court  
22 determines whether to issue a full protection order.

23 (~~(17)~~) (18) "Full protection order" means a protection order  
24 that is issued by the court after notice to the respondent and where  
25 the parties had the opportunity for a full hearing by the court.  
26 "Full protection order" includes a protection order entered by the  
27 court by agreement of the parties to resolve the petition for a  
28 protection order without a full hearing.

29 (~~(18)~~) (19) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter  
30 70.41 or 71.12 RCW or a state hospital defined in chapter 72.23 RCW  
31 and any employee, agent, officer, director, or independent contractor  
32 thereof.

33 (~~(19)~~) (20) "Interested person" means a person who demonstrates  
34 to the court's satisfaction that the person is interested in the  
35 welfare of a vulnerable adult, that the person has a good faith  
36 belief that the court's intervention is necessary, and that the  
37 vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or  
38 duress at the time the petition is filed, to protect his or her own  
39 interests.

1       (~~(20)~~) (21) "Intimate partner" means: (a) Spouses or domestic  
2 partners; (b) former spouses or former domestic partners; (c) persons  
3 who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been  
4 married or have lived together at any time, unless the child is  
5 conceived through sexual assault; or (d) persons who have or have had  
6 a dating relationship where both persons are at least 13 years of age  
7 or older.

8       (~~(21)~~) (22)(a) "Isolate" or "isolation" means to restrict a  
9 person's ability to communicate, visit, interact, or otherwise  
10 associate with persons of his or her choosing. Isolation may be  
11 evidenced by acts including, but not limited to:

12       (i) Acts that prevent a person from sending, making, or receiving  
13 his or her personal mail, electronic communications, or telephone  
14 calls; or

15       (ii) Acts that prevent or obstruct a person from meeting with  
16 others, such as telling a prospective visitor or caller that the  
17 person is not present or does not wish contact, where the statement  
18 is contrary to the express wishes of the person.

19       (b) The term "isolate" or "isolation" may not be construed in a  
20 manner that prevents a guardian or limited guardian from performing  
21 his or her fiduciary obligations under chapter 11.92 RCW or prevents  
22 a hospital or facility from providing treatment consistent with the  
23 standard of care for delivery of health services.

24       (~~(22)~~) (23) "Judicial day" means days of the week other than  
25 Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.

26       (~~(23)~~) (24) "Mechanical restraint" means any device attached or  
27 adjacent to a vulnerable adult's body that the vulnerable adult  
28 cannot easily remove that restricts freedom of movement or normal  
29 access to the vulnerable adult's body. "Mechanical restraint" does  
30 not include the use of devices, materials, or equipment that are (a)  
31 medically authorized, as required, and (b) used in a manner that is  
32 consistent with federal or state licensing or certification  
33 requirements for facilities, hospitals, or programs authorized under  
34 chapter 71A.12 RCW.

35       (~~(24)~~) (25) "Minor" means a person who is under 18 years of  
36 age.

37       (~~(25)~~) (26) "Neglect" means: (a) A pattern of conduct or  
38 inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care that fails to  
39 provide the goods and services that maintain the physical or mental  
40 health of a vulnerable adult, or that fails to avoid or prevent

1 physical or mental harm or pain to a vulnerable adult; or (b) an act  
2 or omission by a person or entity with a duty of care that  
3 demonstrates a serious disregard of consequences of such a magnitude  
4 as to constitute a clear and present danger to the vulnerable adult's  
5 health, welfare, or safety including, but not limited to, conduct  
6 prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100.

7 ~~((26))~~ (27) "Nonconsensual" means a lack of freely given  
8 consent.

9 ~~((27))~~ (28) "Nonphysical contact" includes, but is not limited  
10 to, written notes, mail, telephone calls, email, text messages,  
11 contact through social media applications, contact through other  
12 technologies, or contact through third parties.

13 ~~((28))~~ (29) "Petitioner" means any named petitioner or any  
14 other person identified in the petition on whose behalf the petition  
15 is brought.

16 ~~((29))~~ (30) "Physical restraint" means the application of  
17 physical force without the use of any device, for the purpose of  
18 restraining the free movement of a vulnerable adult's body. "Physical  
19 restraint" does not include (a) briefly holding, without undue force,  
20 a vulnerable adult in order to calm or comfort him or her, or (b)  
21 holding a vulnerable adult's hand to safely escort him or her from  
22 one area to another.

23 ~~((30))~~ (31) "Possession" means having an item in one's custody  
24 or control. Possession may be either actual or constructive. Actual  
25 possession occurs when the item is in the actual physical custody of  
26 the person charged with possession. Constructive possession occurs  
27 when there is no actual physical possession, but there is dominion  
28 and control over the item.

29 ~~((31))~~ (32) "Respondent" means the person who is identified as  
30 the respondent in a petition filed under this chapter.

31 ~~((32))~~ (33) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following:

32 (a) Any intentional or knowing touching or fondling of the  
33 genitals, anus, or breasts, directly or indirectly, including through  
34 clothing;

35 (b) Any intentional or knowing display of the genitals, anus, or  
36 breasts for the purposes of arousal or sexual gratification of the  
37 respondent;

38 (c) Any intentional or knowing touching or fondling of the  
39 genitals, anus, or breasts, directly or indirectly, including through

1 clothing, that the petitioner is forced to perform by another person  
2 or the respondent;

3 (d) Any forced display of the petitioner's genitals, anus, or  
4 breasts for the purposes of arousal or sexual gratification of the  
5 respondent or others;

6 (e) Any intentional or knowing touching of the clothed or  
7 unclothed body of a child under the age of 16, if done for the  
8 purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the respondent or  
9 others; or

10 (f) Any coerced or forced touching or fondling by a child under  
11 the age of 16, directly or indirectly, including through clothing, of  
12 the genitals, anus, or breasts of the respondent or others.

13 (~~(33)~~) (34) "Sexual penetration" means any contact, however  
14 slight, between the sex organ or anus of one person by an object, the  
15 sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person, or any intrusion,  
16 however slight, of any part of the body of one person or of any  
17 animal or object into the sex organ or anus of another person  
18 including, but not limited to, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal  
19 penetration. Evidence of emission of semen is not required to prove  
20 sexual penetration.

21 (~~(34)~~) (35) "Stalking" means any of the following:

22 (a) Any act of stalking as defined under RCW 9A.46.110;

23 (b) Any act of cyber harassment as defined under RCW 9A.90.120;

24 or

25 (c) Any course of conduct involving repeated or continuing  
26 contacts, attempts to contact, monitoring, tracking, surveillance,  
27 keeping under observation, disrupting activities in a harassing  
28 manner, or following of another person that:

29 (i) Would cause a reasonable person to feel intimidated,  
30 frightened, under duress, significantly disrupted, or threatened and  
31 that actually causes such a feeling;

32 (ii) Serves no lawful purpose; and

33 (iii) The respondent knows, or reasonably should know, threatens,  
34 frightens, or intimidates the person, even if the respondent did not  
35 intend to intimidate, frighten, or threaten the person.

36 (~~(35)~~) (36) "Temporary protection order" means a protection  
37 order that is issued before the court has decided whether to issue a  
38 full protection order. "Temporary protection order" includes ex parte  
39 temporary protection orders, as well as temporary protection orders  
40 that are reissued by the court pending the completion of a full

1 hearing to decide whether to issue a full protection order. An "ex  
2 parte temporary protection order" means a temporary protection order  
3 that is issued without prior notice to the respondent.

4 (~~(36)~~) (37) "Unlawful harassment" means:

5 (a) A knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a  
6 specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is  
7 detrimental to such person, and that serves no legitimate or lawful  
8 purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a  
9 reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must  
10 actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner; or

11 (b) A single act of violence or threat of violence directed at a  
12 specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is  
13 detrimental to such person, and that serves no legitimate or lawful  
14 purpose, which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial  
15 emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial emotional  
16 distress to the petitioner. A single threat of violence must include:

17 (i) A malicious and intentional threat as described in RCW  
18 9A.36.080(1)(c); or (ii) the presence of a firearm or other weapon.

19 (~~(37)~~) (38) "Vulnerable adult" includes a person:

20 (a) Sixty years of age or older who has the functional, mental,  
21 or physical inability to care for himself or herself; or

22 (b) Subject to a guardianship under RCW 11.130.265 or adult  
23 subject to conservatorship under RCW 11.130.360; or

24 (c) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW  
25 71A.10.020; or

26 (d) Admitted to any facility; or

27 (e) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care  
28 agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127  
29 RCW; or

30 (f) Receiving services from a person under contract with the  
31 department of social and health services to provide services in the  
32 home under chapter 74.09 or 74.39A RCW; or

33 (g) Who self-directs his or her own care and receives services  
34 from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW.

35 **Sec. 10.** RCW 7.105.100 and 2022 c 268 s 5 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) There exists an action known as a petition for a protection  
38 order. The following types of petitions for a protection order may be  
39 filed:

1 (a) A petition for a domestic violence protection order, which  
2 must allege the existence of domestic violence committed against the  
3 petitioner or petitioners by an intimate partner or a family or  
4 household member. The petitioner may petition for relief on behalf of  
5 himself or herself and on behalf of family or household members who  
6 are minors or vulnerable adults. A petition for a domestic violence  
7 protection order must specify whether the petitioner and the  
8 respondent are intimate partners or family or household members. A  
9 petitioner who has been sexually assaulted or stalked by an intimate  
10 partner or a family or household member should, but is not required  
11 to, seek a domestic violence protection order, rather than a sexual  
12 assault protection order or a stalking protection order.

13 (b) A petition for a sexual assault protection order, which must  
14 allege the existence of nonconsensual sexual conduct ~~(( $\oplus$ ))~~,  
15 nonconsensual sexual penetration, or commercial sexual exploitation  
16 that was committed against the petitioner by the respondent. A  
17 petitioner who has been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner or  
18 a family or household member should, but is not required to, seek a  
19 domestic violence protection order, rather than a sexual assault  
20 protection order. A single incident of nonconsensual sexual conduct  
21 or nonconsensual sexual penetration is sufficient grounds for a  
22 petition for a sexual assault protection order. The petitioner may  
23 petition for a sexual assault protection order on behalf of:

24 (i) Himself or herself;

25 (ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal  
26 guardian, or custodian;

27 (iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested  
28 person; or

29 (iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the  
30 court's satisfaction that the petitioner is interested in the adult's  
31 well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult  
32 cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or  
33 inaccessibility.

34 (c) A petition for a stalking protection order, which must allege  
35 the existence of stalking committed against the petitioner or  
36 petitioners by the respondent. A petitioner who has been stalked by  
37 an intimate partner or a family or household member should, but is  
38 not required to, seek a domestic violence protection order, rather  
39 than a stalking protection order. The petitioner may petition for a  
40 stalking protection order on behalf of:

- 1 (i) Himself or herself;
- 2 (ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal  
3 guardian, or custodian;
- 4 (iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested  
5 person; or
- 6 (iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the  
7 court's satisfaction that the petitioner is interested in the adult's  
8 well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult  
9 cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or  
10 inaccessibility.
- 11 (d) A petition for a vulnerable adult protection order, which  
12 must allege that the petitioner, or person on whose behalf the  
13 petition is brought, is a vulnerable adult and that the petitioner,  
14 or person on whose behalf the petition is brought, has been  
15 abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or is  
16 threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or  
17 neglect, by the respondent.
- 18 (e) A petition for an extreme risk protection order, which must  
19 allege that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing  
20 personal injury to self or others by having in the respondent's  
21 custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or  
22 attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm. The petition must also  
23 identify information the petitioner is able to provide about the  
24 firearms, such as the number, types, and locations of any firearms  
25 the petitioner believes to be in the respondent's current ownership,  
26 possession, custody, access, or control. A petition for an extreme  
27 risk protection order may be filed by (i) an intimate partner or a  
28 family or household member of the respondent; or (ii) a law  
29 enforcement agency.
- 30 (f) A petition for an antiharassment protection order, which must  
31 allege the existence of unlawful harassment committed against the  
32 petitioner or petitioners by the respondent. If a petitioner is  
33 seeking relief based on domestic violence, nonconsensual sexual  
34 conduct, nonconsensual sexual penetration, or stalking, the  
35 petitioner may, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence,  
36 sexual assault, or stalking protection order, rather than an  
37 antiharassment order. The petitioner may petition for an  
38 antiharassment protection order on behalf of:
- 39 (i) Himself or herself;

1 (ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal  
2 guardian, or custodian;

3 (iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested  
4 person; or

5 (iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the  
6 court's satisfaction that the petitioner is interested in the adult's  
7 well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult  
8 cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or  
9 inaccessibility.

10 (2) With the exception of vulnerable adult protection orders, a  
11 person under 18 years of age who is 15 years of age or older may seek  
12 relief under this chapter as a petitioner and is not required to seek  
13 relief through a petition filed on his or her behalf. He or she may  
14 also petition on behalf of a family or household member who is a  
15 minor if chosen by the minor and capable of pursuing the minor's  
16 stated interest in the action.

17 (3) A person under 15 years of age who is seeking relief under  
18 this chapter is required to seek relief by a person authorized as a  
19 petitioner under this section.

20 (4) If a petition for a protection order is filed by an  
21 interested person, the affidavit or declaration must also include a  
22 statement of why the petitioner qualifies as an interested person.

23 (5) A petition for any type of protection order must not be  
24 dismissed or denied on the basis that the conduct alleged by the  
25 petitioner would meet the criteria for the issuance of another type  
26 of protection order. If a petition meets the criteria for a different  
27 type of protection order other than the one sought by the petitioner,  
28 the court shall consider the petitioner's preference, and enter a  
29 temporary protection order or set the matter for a hearing as  
30 appropriate under the law. The court's decision on the appropriate  
31 type of order shall not be premised on alleviating any potential  
32 stigma on the respondent.

33 (6) The protection order petition must contain a section where  
34 the petitioner, regardless of petition type, may request specific  
35 relief provided for in RCW 7.105.310 that the petitioner seeks for  
36 himself or herself or for family or household members who are minors.  
37 The totality of selected relief, and any other relief the court deems  
38 appropriate for the petitioner, or family or household members who  
39 are minors, must be considered at the time of entry of temporary  
40 protection orders and at the time of entry of full protection orders.



1 (7) If a court reviewing the petition for a protection order or a  
2 request for a temporary protection order determines that the petition  
3 was not filed in the correct court, the court shall enter findings  
4 establishing the correct court, and direct the clerk to transfer the  
5 petition to the correct court and to provide notice of the transfer  
6 to all parties who have appeared.

7 (8) Upon filing a petition for a protection order, the petitioner  
8 may request that the court enter an ex parte temporary protection  
9 order and an order to surrender and prohibit weapons without notice  
10 until a hearing on a full protection order may be held. When  
11 requested, there shall be a rebuttable presumption to include the  
12 petitioner's minor children as protected parties in the ex parte  
13 temporary domestic violence protection order until the full hearing  
14 to reduce the risk of harm to children during periods of heightened  
15 risk, unless there is good cause not to include the minor children.  
16 If the court denies the petitioner's request to include the minor  
17 children, the court shall make written findings why the children  
18 should not be included, pending the full hearing. An ex parte  
19 temporary protection order shall be effective for a fixed period of  
20 time and shall be issued initially for a period not to exceed 14  
21 days, which may be extended for good cause.

22 **Sec. 11.** RCW 7.105.110 and 2021 c 215 s 15 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 The following apply only to the specific type of protection  
25 orders referenced in each subsection.

26 (1) The department of social and health services, in its  
27 discretion, may file a petition for a vulnerable adult protection  
28 order or a domestic violence protection order on behalf of, and with  
29 the consent of, any vulnerable adult. When the department has reason  
30 to believe a vulnerable adult lacks the ability or capacity to  
31 consent, the department, in its discretion, may seek relief on behalf  
32 of the vulnerable adult. Neither the department nor the state of  
33 Washington is liable for seeking or failing to seek relief on behalf  
34 of any persons under this section. The vulnerable adult shall not be  
35 held responsible for any violations of the order by the respondent.

36 (2)(a) If the petitioner for an extreme risk protection order is  
37 a law enforcement agency, the petitioner shall make a good faith  
38 effort to provide notice to an intimate partner or family or  
39 household member of the respondent and to any known third party who

1 may be at risk of violence. The notice must state that the petitioner  
2 intends to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order or  
3 has already done so, and include referrals to appropriate resources,  
4 including behavioral health, domestic violence, and counseling  
5 resources. The petitioner must attest in the petition to having  
6 provided such notice, or attest to the steps that will be taken to  
7 provide such notice.

8 (b) Recognizing that an extreme risk protection order may need to  
9 be issued outside of normal business hours, courts shall allow law  
10 enforcement petitioners to petition after hours for a temporary  
11 extreme risk protection order using an on-call, after-hours judge, as  
12 is done for approval of after-hours search warrants.

13 (3) The department of children, youth, and families, when it has  
14 reason to believe that a minor lacks the ability or capacity to  
15 consent may file a petition for a sexual assault protection order on  
16 behalf of the minor. Neither the department nor the state of  
17 Washington is liable for seeking or failing to seek relief on behalf  
18 of any persons under this section. The minor shall not be held  
19 responsible for any violations of the order by the respondent.

20 (4) A law enforcement agency, when it has reason to believe that  
21 a minor lacks the ability or capacity to consent may file a petition  
22 for an ex parte temporary sexual assault protection order on behalf  
23 of the minor. Neither the law enforcement agency nor the state of  
24 Washington is liable for seeking or failing to seek relief on behalf  
25 of any persons under this section. The minor shall not be held  
26 responsible for any violations of the order by the respondent.

27 **Sec. 12.** RCW 7.105.225 and 2021 c 215 s 29 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The court shall issue a protection order if it finds by a  
30 preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner has proved the  
31 required criteria specified in (a) through (f) of this subsection for  
32 obtaining a protection order under this chapter.

33 (a) For a domestic violence protection order, that the petitioner  
34 has been subjected to domestic violence by the respondent.

35 (b) For a sexual assault protection order, that the petitioner  
36 has been subjected to nonconsensual sexual conduct ~~((~~or~~))~~,  
37 nonconsensual sexual penetration, or commercial sexual exploitation  
38 by the respondent.

1 (c) For a stalking protection order, that the petitioner has been  
2 subjected to stalking by the respondent.

3 (d) For a vulnerable adult protection order, that the petitioner  
4 has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or  
5 is threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or  
6 neglect by the respondent.

7 (e) For an extreme risk protection order, that the respondent  
8 poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or  
9 others by having in the respondent's custody or control, purchasing,  
10 possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or  
11 receive, a firearm.

12 (f) For an antiharassment protection order, that the petitioner  
13 has been subjected to unlawful harassment by the respondent.

14 (2) The court may not deny or dismiss a petition for a protection  
15 order on the grounds that:

16 (a) The petitioner or the respondent is a minor, unless  
17 provisions in this chapter specifically limit relief or remedies  
18 based upon a party's age;

19 (b) The petitioner did not report the conduct giving rise to the  
20 petition to law enforcement;

21 (c) A no-contact order or a restraining order that restrains the  
22 respondent's contact with the petitioner has been issued in a  
23 criminal proceeding or in a domestic relations proceeding;

24 (d) The relief sought by the petitioner may be available in a  
25 different action or proceeding, or criminal charges are pending  
26 against the respondent;

27 (e) The conduct at issue did not occur recently or because of the  
28 passage of time since the last incident of conduct giving rise to the  
29 petition; or

30 (f) The respondent no longer lives near the petitioner.

31 (3) In proceedings where the petitioner alleges that the  
32 respondent engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct ((~~or~~)),  
33 nonconsensual sexual penetration, or commercial sexual exploitation,  
34 the court shall not require proof of physical injury on the person of  
35 the petitioner or any other forensic evidence. Denial of a remedy to  
36 the petitioner may not be based, in whole or in part, on evidence  
37 that:

38 (a) The respondent was voluntarily intoxicated;

39 (b) The petitioner was voluntarily intoxicated; or

40 (c) The petitioner engaged in limited consensual sexual touching.

1 (4) In proceedings where the petitioner alleges that the  
2 respondent engaged in stalking, the court may not require proof of  
3 the respondent's intentions regarding the acts alleged by the  
4 petitioner.

5 (5) In proceedings where the petitioner alleges that the  
6 respondent engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, denial of a  
7 remedy to the petitioner may not be based, in whole or in part, on  
8 evidence that the petitioner consented to sexual conduct or sexual  
9 penetration.

10 (6) If the court declines to issue a protection order, the court  
11 shall state in writing the particular reasons for the court's denial.  
12 If the court declines a request to include one or more of the  
13 petitioner's family or household member who is a minor or a  
14 vulnerable adult in the order, the court shall state the reasons for  
15 that denial in writing. The court shall also explain from the bench:

16 (a) That the petitioner may refile a petition for a protection  
17 order at any time if the petitioner has new evidence to present that  
18 would support the issuance of a protection order;

19 (b) The parties' rights to seek revision, reconsideration, or  
20 appeal of the order; and

21 (c) The parties' rights to have access to the court transcript or  
22 recording of the hearing.

23 ~~((+6))~~ (7) A court's ruling on a protection order must be filed  
24 by the court in writing and must be made by the court on the  
25 mandatory form developed by the administrative office of the courts.

26 **Sec. 13.** RCW 7.105.405 and 2021 c 215 s 54 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 The following provisions apply to the renewal of all full  
29 protection orders issued under this chapter, with the exception of  
30 the renewal of extreme risk protection orders.

31 (1) If the court grants a protection order for a fixed time  
32 period, the petitioner may file a motion to renew the order at any  
33 time within the 90 days before the order expires. The motion for  
34 renewal must state the reasons the petitioner seeks to renew the  
35 protection order. Upon receipt of a motion for renewal, the court  
36 shall order a hearing, which must be not later than 14 days from the  
37 date of the order. Service must be made on the respondent not less  
38 than five judicial days before the hearing, as provided in RCW  
39 7.105.150.

1 (2) If the motion for renewal is uncontested and the petitioner  
2 seeks no modification of the order, the order may be renewed on the  
3 basis of the petitioner's motion and statement of the reason for the  
4 requested renewal.

5 (3) The petitioner bears no burden of proving that he or she has  
6 a current reasonable fear of harm by the respondent.

7 (4) The court shall grant the motion for renewal unless the  
8 respondent proves by a preponderance of the evidence that there has  
9 been a substantial change in circumstances and the following:

10 (a) For a domestic violence protection order, that the respondent  
11 proves that the respondent will not resume acts of domestic violence  
12 against the petitioner or the petitioner's family or household  
13 members who are minors or vulnerable adults when the order expires;

14 (b) For a sexual assault protection order, that the respondent  
15 proves that the respondent will not engage in, or attempt to engage  
16 in, physical or nonphysical contact, or acts of commercial sexual  
17 exploitation, with the petitioner when the order expires;

18 (c) For a stalking protection order, that the respondent proves  
19 that the respondent will not resume acts of stalking against the  
20 petitioner or the petitioner's family or household members when the  
21 order expires;

22 (d) For a vulnerable adult protection order, that the respondent  
23 proves that the respondent will not resume acts of abandonment,  
24 abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect against the vulnerable  
25 adult when the order expires; or

26 (e) For an antiharassment protection order, that the respondent  
27 proves that the respondent will not resume harassment of the  
28 petitioner when the order expires.

29 (5) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in  
30 circumstances, the court may consider the following unweighted  
31 factors, and no inference is to be drawn from the order in which the  
32 factors are listed:

33 (a) Whether the respondent has committed or threatened sexual  
34 assault; commercial sexual exploitation; domestic violence; stalking;  
35 abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a  
36 vulnerable adult; or other harmful acts against the petitioner or any  
37 other person since the protection order was entered;

38 (b) Whether the respondent has violated the terms of the  
39 protection order and the time that has passed since the entry of the  
40 order;

1 (c) Whether the respondent has exhibited suicidal ideation or  
2 attempts since the protection order was entered;

3 (d) Whether the respondent has been convicted of criminal  
4 activity since the protection order was entered;

5 (e) Whether the respondent has either: Acknowledged  
6 responsibility for acts of sexual assault, commercial sexual  
7 exploitation, domestic violence, or stalking, or acts of abandonment,  
8 abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult, or  
9 behavior that resulted in the entry of the protection order; or  
10 successfully completed state-certified perpetrator treatment or  
11 counseling since the protection order was entered;

12 (f) Whether the respondent has a continuing involvement with drug  
13 or alcohol abuse, if such abuse was a factor in the protection order;  
14 and

15 (g) Other factors relating to a substantial change in  
16 circumstances.

17 (6) The court shall not deny a motion to renew a protection order  
18 for any of the following reasons:

19 (a) The respondent has not violated the protection order  
20 previously issued by the court;

21 (b) The petitioner or the respondent is a minor;

22 (c) The petitioner did not report the conduct giving rise to the  
23 protection order, or subsequent violations of the protection order,  
24 to law enforcement;

25 (d) A no-contact order or a restraining order that restrains the  
26 respondent's contact with the petitioner has been issued in a  
27 criminal proceeding or in a domestic relations proceeding;

28 (e) The relief sought by the petitioner may be available in a  
29 different action or proceeding;

30 (f) The passage of time since the last incident of conduct giving  
31 rise to the issuance of the protection order; or

32 (g) The respondent no longer lives near the petitioner.

33 (7) The terms of the original protection order must not be  
34 changed on a motion for renewal unless the petitioner has requested  
35 the change.

36 (8) The court may renew the protection order for another fixed  
37 time period of no less than one year, or may enter a permanent order  
38 as provided in this section.

39 (9) If the protection order includes the parties' children, a  
40 renewed protection order may be issued for more than one year,

1 subject to subsequent orders entered in a proceeding under chapter  
2 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW.

3 (10) The court may award court costs, service fees, and  
4 reasonable attorneys' fees to the petitioner as provided in RCW  
5 7.105.310.

6 (11) If the court declines to renew the protection order, the  
7 court shall state, in writing in the order, the particular reasons  
8 for the court's denial. If the court declines to renew a protection  
9 order that had restrained the respondent from having contact with  
10 children protected by the order, the court shall determine on the  
11 record whether the respondent and the children should undergo  
12 reunification therapy. Any reunification therapy provider should be  
13 made aware of the respondent's history of domestic violence and  
14 should have training and experience in the dynamics of intimate  
15 partner violence.

16 (12) In determining whether there has been a substantial change  
17 in circumstances for respondents under the age of 18, or in  
18 determining the appropriate duration for an order, the court shall  
19 consider the circumstances surrounding the respondent's youth at the  
20 time of the initial behavior alleged in the petition for a protection  
21 order. The court shall consider developmental factors, including the  
22 impact of time of a youth's development, and any information the  
23 minor respondent presents about his or her personal progress or  
24 change in circumstances.

25 **Sec. 14.** RCW 7.105.500 and 2022 c 268 s 23 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 This section applies to modification or termination of domestic  
28 violence protection orders, sexual assault protection orders,  
29 stalking protection orders, and antiharassment protection orders.

30 (1) Upon a motion with notice to all parties and after a hearing,  
31 the court may modify the terms of an existing protection order or  
32 terminate an existing order.

33 (2) A respondent's motion to modify or terminate an existing  
34 protection order must include a declaration setting forth facts  
35 supporting the requested order for modification or termination. The  
36 nonmoving parties to the proceeding may file opposing declarations.  
37 All motions to modify or terminate shall be based on the written  
38 materials and evidence submitted to the court. The court shall set a  
39 hearing only if the court finds that adequate cause is established.

1 If the court finds that the respondent established adequate cause,  
2 the court shall set a date for hearing the respondent's motion, which  
3 must be at least 14 days from the date the court finds adequate  
4 cause.

5 (3) Upon the motion of a respondent, the court may not modify or  
6 terminate an existing protection order unless the respondent proves  
7 by a preponderance of the evidence that there has been a substantial  
8 change in circumstances such that the respondent will not resume,  
9 engage in, or attempt to engage in, the following acts against the  
10 petitioner or those persons protected by the protection order if the  
11 order is terminated or modified:

12 (a) Acts of domestic violence, in cases involving domestic  
13 violence protection orders;

14 (b) Physical or nonphysical contact, or acts of commercial sexual  
15 exploitation, in cases involving sexual assault protection orders;

16 (c) Acts of stalking, in cases involving stalking protection  
17 orders; or

18 (d) Acts of unlawful harassment, in cases involving  
19 antiharassment protection orders.

20 The petitioner bears no burden of proving that he or she has a  
21 current reasonable fear of harm by the respondent.

22 (4) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in  
23 circumstances, the court may consider the following unweighted  
24 factors, and no inference is to be drawn from the order in which the  
25 factors are listed:

26 (a) Whether the respondent has committed or threatened sexual  
27 assault, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic violence, stalking,  
28 or other harmful acts against the petitioner or any other person  
29 since the protection order was entered;

30 (b) Whether the respondent has violated the terms of the  
31 protection order and the time that has passed since the entry of the  
32 order;

33 (c) Whether the respondent has exhibited suicidal ideation or  
34 attempts since the protection order was entered;

35 (d) Whether the respondent has been convicted of criminal  
36 activity since the protection order was entered;

37 (e) Whether the respondent has either acknowledged responsibility  
38 for acts of sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic  
39 violence, stalking, or behavior that resulted in the entry of the  
40 protection order, or successfully completed state-certified



1 perpetrator treatment or counseling since the protection order was  
2 entered;

3 (f) Whether the respondent has a continuing involvement with drug  
4 or alcohol abuse, if such abuse was a factor in the protection order;

5 (g) Whether the petitioner consents to terminating the protection  
6 order, provided that consent is given voluntarily and knowingly; or

7 (h) Other factors relating to a substantial change in  
8 circumstances.

9 (5) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in  
10 circumstances, the court may not base its determination on the fact  
11 that time has passed without a violation of the order.

12 (6) Regardless of whether there is a substantial change in  
13 circumstances, the court may decline to terminate a protection order  
14 if it finds that the acts of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
15 commercial sexual exploitation, stalking, unlawful harassment, and  
16 other harmful acts that resulted in the issuance of the protection  
17 order were of such severity that the order should not be terminated.

18 (7) A respondent may file a motion to modify or terminate an  
19 order no more than once in every 12-month period that the order is in  
20 effect, starting from the date of the order and continuing through  
21 any renewal period.

22 (8) If a person who is protected by a protection order has a  
23 child or adopts a child after a protection order has been issued, but  
24 before the protection order has expired, the petitioner may seek to  
25 include the new child in the order of protection on an ex parte basis  
26 if the child is already in the physical custody of the petitioner. If  
27 the restrained person is the legal or biological parent of the child,  
28 a hearing must be set and notice given to the restrained person prior  
29 to final modification of the full protection order.

30 (9) A court may require the respondent to pay the petitioner for  
31 costs incurred in responding to a motion to modify or terminate a  
32 protection order, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

33 **PART III - CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION**

34 **Sec. 15.** RCW 7.68.060 and 2020 c 308 s 1 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) Except for applications received pursuant to subsection (6)  
37 of this section, no compensation of any kind shall be available under  
38 this chapter if:

1 (a) An application for benefits is not received by the department  
2 within three years after the date the criminal act was reported to a  
3 local police department or sheriff's office or the date the rights of  
4 beneficiaries accrued, unless the director has determined that "good  
5 cause" exists to expand the time permitted to receive the  
6 application. "Good cause" shall be determined by the department on a  
7 case-by-case basis and may extend the period of time in which an  
8 application can be received for up to five years after the date the  
9 criminal act was reported to a local police department or sheriff's  
10 office or the date the rights of beneficiaries accrued; or

11 (b) The criminal act is not reported by the victim or someone on  
12 his or her behalf to a local police department or sheriff's office  
13 within twelve months of its occurrence or, if it could not reasonably  
14 have been reported within that period, within twelve months of the  
15 time when a report could reasonably have been made. In making  
16 determinations as to reasonable time limits, the department shall  
17 give greatest weight to the needs of the victims.

18 (2) No person or spouse, child, or dependent of such person is  
19 eligible for benefits under this chapter when the injury for which  
20 benefits are sought was:

21 (a) The result of consent, provocation, or incitement by the  
22 victim, unless an injury resulting from a criminal act caused the  
23 death of the victim;

24 (b) Sustained while the crime victim was engaged in the attempt  
25 to commit, or the commission of, a felony; or

26 (c) Sustained while the victim was confined in any county or city  
27 jail, federal jail or prison or in any other federal institution, or  
28 any state correctional institution maintained and operated by the  
29 department of social and health services or the department of  
30 corrections, prior to release from lawful custody; or confined or  
31 living in any other institution maintained and operated by the  
32 department of social and health services or the department of  
33 corrections.

34 (3) No person or spouse, child, or dependent of such person is  
35 eligible for benefits under this chapter where the person making a  
36 claim for such benefits has refused to give reasonable cooperation to  
37 state or local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to apprehend  
38 and convict the perpetrator of the criminal act which gave rise to  
39 the claim.

1 (4) A victim is not eligible for benefits under this chapter if  
2 the victim:

3 (a) Has been convicted of a felony offense within five years  
4 preceding the criminal act for which the victim is applying where the  
5 felony offense is a violent offense under RCW 9.94A.030 or a crime  
6 against persons under RCW 9.94A.411, or is convicted of such a felony  
7 offense after the criminal act for which the victim is applying; and

8 (b) Has not completely satisfied all legal financial obligations  
9 owed.

10 (5) Because victims of childhood criminal acts may repress  
11 conscious memory of such criminal acts far beyond the age of  
12 eighteen, the rights of adult victims of childhood criminal acts  
13 shall accrue at the time the victim discovers or reasonably should  
14 have discovered the elements of the crime. In making determinations  
15 as to reasonable time limits, the department shall give greatest  
16 weight to the needs of the victim.

17 (6) (a) Benefits under this chapter are available to any victim of  
18 a person against whom the state initiates proceedings under chapter  
19 71.09 RCW. The right created under this subsection shall accrue when  
20 the victim is notified of proceedings under chapter 71.09 RCW or the  
21 victim is interviewed, deposed, or testifies as a witness in  
22 connection with the proceedings. An application for benefits under  
23 this subsection must be received by the department within two years  
24 after the date the victim's right accrued unless the director  
25 determines that good cause exists to expand the time to receive the  
26 application. The director shall determine "good cause" on a case-by-  
27 case basis and may extend the period of time in which an application  
28 can be received for up to five years after the date the right of the  
29 victim accrued. Benefits under this subsection shall be limited to  
30 compensation for costs or losses incurred on or after the date the  
31 victim's right accrues for a claim allowed under this subsection.

32 (b) A person identified as a minor victim of sex trafficking or  
33 as the "minor" in the charge of commercial sexual abuse of a minor  
34 under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor  
35 under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse  
36 of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102 is considered a victim of a criminal  
37 act for the purpose of the right to benefits under this chapter even  
38 if the person is also charged with prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030.  
39 A person identified under this subsection (6) (b) may file an  
40 application for benefits at any time, and the ineligibility factors

1 of subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to such a  
2 person.

3 **PART IV - STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND EVIDENTIARY PROCEDURES**

4 **Sec. 16.** RCW 9A.04.080 and 2023 c 197 s 8 and 2023 c 122 s 8 are  
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Prosecutions for criminal offenses shall not be commenced  
7 after the periods prescribed in this section.

8 (a) The following offenses may be prosecuted at any time after  
9 their commission:

- 10 (i) Murder;
- 11 (ii) Homicide by abuse;
- 12 (iii) Arson if a death results;
- 13 (iv) Vehicular homicide;
- 14 (v) Vehicular assault if a death results;
- 15 (vi) Hit-and-run injury-accident if a death results (RCW  
16 46.52.020(4));
- 17 (vii) Rape in the first degree (RCW 9A.44.040) if the victim is  
18 under the age of sixteen;
- 19 (viii) Rape in the second degree (RCW 9A.44.050) if the victim is  
20 under the age of sixteen;
- 21 (ix) Rape of a child in the first degree (RCW 9A.44.073);
- 22 (x) Rape of a child in the second degree (RCW 9A.44.076);
- 23 (xi) Rape of a child in the third degree (RCW 9A.44.079);
- 24 (xii) Sexual misconduct with a minor in the first degree (RCW  
25 9A.44.093);
- 26 (xiii) Custodial sexual misconduct in the first degree (RCW  
27 9A.44.160);
- 28 (xiv) Child molestation in the first degree (RCW 9A.44.083);
- 29 (xv) Child molestation in the second degree (RCW 9A.44.086);
- 30 (xvi) Child molestation in the third degree (RCW 9A.44.089);
- 31 (~~and~~)
- 32 (xvii) Sexual exploitation of a minor (RCW 9.68A.040);
- 33 (xviii) Trafficking (RCW 9A.40.100) if the victim is under the  
34 age of 18;
- 35 (xix) Commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW 9.68A.100);
- 36 (xx) Promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW  
37 9.68A.101);

1 (xxi) Promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor  
2 (RCW 9.68A.102); and  
3 (xxii) Permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor (RCW  
4 9.68A.103).

5 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this subsection, the following  
6 offenses may not be prosecuted more than ~~((twenty))~~ 20 years after  
7 its commission:

- 8 (i) Rape in the first degree (RCW 9A.44.040);  
9 (ii) Rape in the second degree (RCW 9A.44.050); or  
10 (iii) Indecent liberties (RCW 9A.44.100).

11 (c) The following offenses may not be prosecuted more than ten  
12 years after its commission:

13 (i) Any felony committed by a public officer if the commission is  
14 in connection with the duties of his or her office or constitutes a  
15 breach of his or her public duty or a violation of the oath of  
16 office;

- 17 (ii) Arson if no death results;  
18 (iii) Rape in the third degree (RCW 9A.44.060);  
19 (iv) Attempted murder; or  
20 (v) Trafficking under RCW 9A.40.100.

21 (d) A violation of ~~((any))~~ this offense listed in this subsection  
22 (1)(d) may be prosecuted up to ~~((ten))~~ 10 years after its commission  
23 or, if committed against a victim under the age of ~~((eighteen))~~ 18,  
24 up to the victim's ~~((thirtieth))~~ 30th birthday, whichever is later:

- 25 ~~((i) RCW 9.68A.100 (commercial sexual abuse of a minor);~~  
26 ~~(ii) RCW 9.68A.101 (promoting commercial sexual abuse of a~~  
27 ~~minor);~~  
28 ~~(iii) RCW 9.68A.102 (promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse~~  
29 ~~of a minor); or~~  
30 ~~(iv))~~ RCW 9A.64.020 (incest).

31 (e) A violation of RCW 9A.36.170 may be prosecuted up to 10 years  
32 after its commission, or if committed against a victim under the age  
33 of 18, up to the victim's 28th birthday, whichever is later.

34 (f) The following offenses may not be prosecuted more than six  
35 years after its commission or discovery, whichever occurs later:

- 36 (i) Violations of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080;  
37 (ii) Any felony violation of chapter 9A.83 RCW;  
38 (iii) Any felony violation of chapter 9.35 RCW;  
39 (iv) Theft in the first or second degree under chapter 9A.56 RCW  
40 when accomplished by color or aid of deception;

1 (v) Theft from a vulnerable adult under RCW 9A.56.400;

2 (vi) Trafficking in stolen property in the first or second degree  
3 under chapter 9A.82 RCW in which the stolen property is a motor  
4 vehicle or major component part of a motor vehicle as defined in RCW  
5 46.80.010; or

6 (vii) Violations of RCW 82.32.290 (2)(a)(iii) or (4).

7 (g) The following offenses may not be prosecuted more than five  
8 years after its commission: Any class C felony under chapter 74.09,  
9 82.36, or 82.38 RCW.

10 (h) Bigamy may not be prosecuted more than three years after the  
11 time specified in RCW 9A.64.010.

12 (i) A violation of RCW 9A.56.030 may not be prosecuted more than  
13 three years after the discovery of the offense when the victim is a  
14 tax exempt corporation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3).

15 (j) No other felony may be prosecuted more than three years after  
16 its commission; except that in a prosecution under RCW 9A.44.115, if  
17 the person who was viewed, photographed, or filmed did not realize at  
18 the time that he or she was being viewed, photographed, or filmed,  
19 the prosecution must be commenced within two years of the time the  
20 person who was viewed or in the photograph or film first learns that  
21 he or she was viewed, photographed, or filmed.

22 (k) No gross misdemeanor, except as provided under (e) of this  
23 subsection, may be prosecuted more than two years after its  
24 commission.

25 (l) No misdemeanor may be prosecuted more than one year after its  
26 commission.

27 (2) The periods of limitation prescribed in subsection (1) of  
28 this section do not run during any time when the person charged is  
29 not usually and publicly resident within this state.

30 (3) In any prosecution for a sex offense as defined in RCW  
31 9.94A.030, the periods of limitation prescribed in subsection (1) of  
32 this section run from the date of commission or four years from the  
33 date on which the identity of the suspect is conclusively established  
34 by deoxyribonucleic acid testing or by photograph as defined in RCW  
35 9.68A.011, whichever is later.

36 (4) If, before the end of a period of limitation prescribed in  
37 subsection (1) of this section, an indictment has been found or a  
38 complaint or an information has been filed, and the indictment,  
39 complaint, or information is set aside, then the period of limitation

1 is extended by a period equal to the length of time from the finding  
2 or filing to the setting aside.

3 **Sec. 17.** RCW 9A.44.120 and 2019 c 90 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) A statement not otherwise admissible by statute or court  
6 rule, is admissible in evidence in dependency proceedings under Title  
7 13 RCW and criminal proceedings, including juvenile offense  
8 adjudications, in the courts of the state of Washington if:

9 (a)(i) It is made by a child when under the age of ten describing  
10 any act of sexual contact performed with or on the child by another,  
11 describing any attempted act of sexual contact with or on the child  
12 by another, or describing any act of physical abuse of the child by  
13 another that results in substantial bodily harm as defined by RCW  
14 9A.04.110; or

15 (ii) It is made by a child when under the age of (~~sixteen~~) 18  
16 describing any of the following acts or attempted acts performed with  
17 or on the child: Trafficking under RCW 9A.40.100; commercial sexual  
18 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100; promoting commercial sexual  
19 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101; or promoting travel for  
20 commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102;

21 (b) The court finds, in a hearing conducted outside the presence  
22 of the jury, that the time, content, and circumstances of the  
23 statement provide sufficient indicia of reliability; and

24 (c) The child either:

25 (i) Testifies at the proceedings; or

26 (ii) Is unavailable as a witness, except that when the child is  
27 unavailable as a witness, such statement may be admitted only if  
28 there is corroborative evidence of the act.

29 (2) A statement may not be admitted under this section unless the  
30 proponent of the statement makes known to the adverse party his or  
31 her intention to offer the statement and the particulars of the  
32 statement sufficiently in advance of the proceedings to provide the  
33 adverse party with a fair opportunity to prepare to meet the  
34 statement.

35 **Sec. 18.** RCW 9A.44.150 and 2013 c 302 s 9 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) On motion of the prosecuting attorney in a criminal  
38 proceeding, the court may order that a child under the age of

1 ((fourteen)) 18 may testify in a room outside the presence of the  
2 defendant and the jury while one-way closed-circuit television  
3 equipment simultaneously projects the child's testimony into another  
4 room so the defendant and the jury can watch and hear the child  
5 testify if:

6 (a) The testimony will:

7 (i) Describe an act or attempted act of sexual contact performed  
8 with or on the child witness by another person or with or on a child  
9 other than the child witness by another person;

10 (ii) Describe an act or attempted act of physical abuse against  
11 the child witness by another person or against a child other than the  
12 child witness by another person;

13 (iii) Describe a violation of RCW 9A.40.100 (trafficking) or any  
14 offense identified in chapter 9.68A RCW (sexual exploitation of  
15 children); or

16 (iv) Describe a violent offense as defined by RCW 9.94A.030  
17 committed against a person known by or familiar to the child witness  
18 or by a person known by or familiar to the child witness;

19 (b) The testimony is taken during the criminal proceeding;

20 (c) The court finds by substantial evidence, in a hearing  
21 conducted outside the presence of the jury, that ~~((requiring the~~  
22 ~~child witness to testify in the presence of the defendant will cause~~  
23 ~~the))~~;

24 (i) The particular child involved would be traumatized;

25 (ii) The source of the trauma is not the courtroom generally, but  
26 the presence of the defendant; and

27 (iii) The emotional or mental distress suffered by the child ~~((to~~  
28 ~~suffer serious emotional or mental distress that will prevent)) would  
29 be more than de minimis, such that the child ~~((from))~~ could not  
30 reasonably ~~((communicating))~~ communicate at the trial. If the  
31 defendant is excluded from the presence of the child, the jury must  
32 also be excluded;~~

33 (d) As provided in (a) and (b) of this subsection, the court may  
34 allow a child witness to testify in the presence of the defendant but  
35 outside the presence of the jury, via closed-circuit television, if  
36 the court finds, upon motion and hearing outside the presence of the  
37 jury, that ~~((the child will suffer serious emotional distress that~~  
38 ~~will prevent the child from reasonably communicating at the trial in~~  
39 ~~front of the jury, or, that although the child may be able to~~  
40 ~~reasonably communicate at trial in front of the jury, the child will~~



1 ~~suffer serious emotional or mental distress from testifying~~): (i)  
2 The particular child involved would be traumatized; (ii) the source  
3 of the trauma is not the courtroom generally, but the presence of the  
4 jury; and (iii) the emotional or mental distress suffered by the  
5 child would be more than de minimis, regardless of whether or not the  
6 child could reasonably communicate at the trial in front of the jury.  
7 If the child is able to communicate in front of the defendant but not  
8 the jury the defendant will remain in the room with the child while  
9 the jury is excluded from the room;

10 (e) The court finds that the prosecutor has made all reasonable  
11 efforts to prepare the child witness for testifying, including  
12 informing the child or the child's parent or guardian about community  
13 counseling services, giving court tours, and explaining the trial  
14 process. If the prosecutor fails to demonstrate that preparations  
15 were implemented or the prosecutor in good faith attempted to  
16 implement them, the court shall deny the motion;

17 (f) The court balances the strength of the state's case without  
18 the testimony of the child witness against the defendant's  
19 constitutional rights and the degree of infringement of the closed-  
20 circuit television procedure on those rights;

21 (g) The court finds that no less restrictive method of obtaining  
22 the testimony exists that can adequately protect the child witness  
23 from ~~((the serious))~~ suffering emotional or mental distress that  
24 would be more than de minimis;

25 (h) When the court allows the child witness to testify outside  
26 the presence of the defendant, the defendant can communicate  
27 constantly with the defense attorney by electronic transmission and  
28 be granted reasonable court recesses during the child's testimony for  
29 person-to-person consultation with the defense attorney;

30 (i) The court can communicate with the attorneys by an audio  
31 system so that the court can rule on objections and otherwise control  
32 the proceedings;

33 (j) All parties in the room with the child witness are on camera  
34 and can be viewed by all other parties. If viewing all participants  
35 is not possible, the court shall describe for the viewers the  
36 location of the prosecutor, defense attorney, and other participants  
37 in relation to the child;

38 (k) The court finds that the television equipment is capable of  
39 making an accurate reproduction and the operator of the equipment is  
40 competent to operate the equipment; and

1 (1) The court imposes reasonable guidelines upon the parties for  
2 conducting the filming to avoid trauma to the child witness or abuse  
3 of the procedure for tactical advantage.

4 The prosecutor, defense attorney, and a neutral and trained  
5 victim's advocate, if any, shall always be in the room where the  
6 child witness is testifying. The court in the court's discretion  
7 depending on the circumstances and whether the jury or defendant or  
8 both are excluded from the room where the child is testifying, may  
9 remain or may not remain in the room with the child.

10 (2) During the hearing conducted under subsection (1) of this  
11 section to determine whether the child witness may testify outside  
12 the presence of the defendant and/or the jury, the court may conduct  
13 the observation and examination of the child outside the presence of  
14 the defendant if:

15 (a) The prosecutor alleges and the court concurs that the child  
16 witness will be unable to testify in front of the defendant or (~~will~~  
17 ~~suffer severe emotional or mental distress if forced to testify in~~  
18 ~~front of the defendant~~) that (i) the particular child involved would  
19 be traumatized; (ii) the source of the trauma is not the courtroom  
20 generally, but the presence of the defendant; and (iii) the emotional  
21 or mental distress suffered by the child would be more than de  
22 minimis;

23 (b) The defendant can observe and hear the child witness by  
24 closed-circuit television;

25 (c) The defendant can communicate constantly with the defense  
26 attorney during the examination of the child witness by electronic  
27 transmission and be granted reasonable court recesses during the  
28 child's examination for person-to-person consultation with the  
29 defense attorney; and

30 (d) The court finds the closed-circuit television is capable of  
31 making an accurate reproduction and the operator of the equipment is  
32 competent to operate the equipment. Whenever possible, all the  
33 parties in the room with the child witness shall be on camera so that  
34 the viewers can see all the parties. If viewing all participants is  
35 not possible, then the court shall describe for the viewers the  
36 location of the prosecutor, defense attorney, and other participants  
37 in relation to the child.

38 (3) The court shall make particularized findings on the record  
39 articulating the factors upon which the court based its decision to  
40 allow the child witness to testify via closed-circuit television

1 pursuant to this section. The factors the court may consider include,  
2 but are not limited to, a consideration of the child's age, physical  
3 health, emotional stability, expressions by the child of fear of  
4 testifying in open court or in front of the defendant, the  
5 relationship of the defendant to the child, and the court's  
6 observations of the child's inability to reasonably communicate in  
7 front of the defendant or in open court. The court's findings shall  
8 identify the impact the factors have upon the child's ability to  
9 testify in front of the jury or the defendant or both and the  
10 specific nature of the emotional or mental trauma the child would  
11 suffer. The court shall determine whether the source of the trauma is  
12 the presence of the defendant, the jury, or both, and shall limit the  
13 use of the closed-circuit television accordingly.

14 (4) This section does not apply if the defendant is an attorney  
15 pro se unless the defendant has a court-appointed attorney assisting  
16 the defendant in the defense.

17 (5) This section may not preclude the presence of both the child  
18 witness and the defendant in the courtroom together for purposes of  
19 establishing or challenging the identification of the defendant when  
20 identification is a legitimate issue in the proceeding.

21 (6) The Washington supreme court may adopt rules of procedure  
22 regarding closed-circuit television procedures.

23 (7) All recorded tapes of testimony produced by closed-circuit  
24 television equipment shall be subject to any protective order of the  
25 court for the purpose of protecting the privacy of the child witness.

26 (8) Nothing in this section creates a right of the child witness  
27 to a closed-circuit television procedure in lieu of testifying in  
28 open court.

29 (9) The state shall bear the costs of the closed-circuit  
30 television procedure.

31 (10) A child witness may or may not be a victim in the  
32 proceeding.

33 (11) Nothing in this section precludes the court, under other  
34 circumstances arising under subsection (1)(a) of this section, from  
35 allowing a child to testify outside the presence of the defendant and  
36 the jury so long as the testimony is presented in accordance with the  
37 standards and procedures required in this section.

38 **Sec. 19.** RCW 9A.82.100 and 2012 c 139 s 2 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1 (1) (a) A person who sustains injury to his or her person,  
2 business, or property by an act of criminal profiteering that is part  
3 of a pattern of criminal profiteering activity, or by an offense  
4 defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103,  
5 or 9A.88.070, or by a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 may  
6 file an action in superior court for the recovery of damages and the  
7 costs of the suit, including reasonable investigative and attorney's  
8 fees.

9 (b) The attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may file  
10 an action: (i) On behalf of those persons injured or, respectively,  
11 on behalf of the state or county if the entity has sustained damages,  
12 or (ii) to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern of criminal  
13 profiteering activity, or an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100,  
14 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103, or 9A.88.070, or a  
15 violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

16 (c) An action for damages filed by or on behalf of an injured  
17 person, the state, or the county shall be for the recovery of damages  
18 and the costs of the suit, including reasonable investigative and  
19 attorney's fees.

20 (d) In an action filed to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern  
21 of criminal profiteering activity, or an offense defined in RCW  
22 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103, or 9A.88.070,  
23 or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080, the court, upon proof  
24 of the violation, may impose a civil penalty not exceeding two  
25 hundred fifty thousand dollars, in addition to awarding the cost of  
26 the suit, including reasonable investigative and attorney's fees.

27 (2) The superior court has jurisdiction to prevent, restrain, and  
28 remedy a pattern of criminal profiteering, or an offense defined in  
29 RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103, or  
30 9A.88.070, or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 after making  
31 provision for the rights of all innocent persons affected by the  
32 violation and after hearing or trial, as appropriate, by issuing  
33 appropriate orders.

34 (3) Prior to a determination of liability, orders issued under  
35 subsection (2) of this section may include, but are not limited to,  
36 entering restraining orders or prohibitions or taking such other  
37 actions, including the acceptance of satisfactory performance bonds,  
38 in connection with any property or other interest subject to damages,  
39 forfeiture, or other restraints pursuant to this section as the court  
40 deems proper. The orders may also include attachment, receivership,

1 or injunctive relief in regard to personal or real property pursuant  
2 to Title 7 RCW. In shaping the reach or scope of receivership,  
3 attachment, or injunctive relief, the superior court shall provide  
4 for the protection of bona fide interests in property, including  
5 community property, of persons who were not involved in the violation  
6 of this chapter, except to the extent that such interests or property  
7 were acquired or used in such a way as to be subject to forfeiture  
8 under RCW 9A.82.100(4)(f).

9 (4) Following a determination of liability, orders may include,  
10 but are not limited to:

11 (a) Ordering any person to divest himself or herself of any  
12 interest, direct or indirect, in any enterprise.

13 (b) Imposing reasonable restrictions on the future activities or  
14 investments of any person, including prohibiting any person from  
15 engaging in the same type of endeavor as the enterprise engaged in,  
16 the activities of which affect the laws of this state, to the extent  
17 the Constitutions of the United States and this state permit.

18 (c) Ordering dissolution or reorganization of any enterprise.

19 (d) Ordering the payment of actual damages sustained to those  
20 persons injured by a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080, or an  
21 offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102,  
22 9.68A.103, or 9A.88.070, or an act of criminal profiteering that is  
23 part of a pattern of criminal profiteering, and in the court's  
24 discretion, increasing the payment to an amount not exceeding three  
25 times the actual damages sustained.

26 (e) Ordering the payment of all costs and expenses of the  
27 prosecution and investigation of a pattern of criminal profiteering,  
28 or an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101,  
29 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103, or 9A.88.070, activity or a violation of RCW  
30 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080, civil and criminal, incurred by the state or  
31 county, including any costs of defense provided at public expense, as  
32 appropriate to the state general fund or the antiprofitteering  
33 revolving fund of the county.

34 (f) Ordering forfeiture first as restitution to any person  
35 damaged by an act of criminal profiteering that is part of a pattern  
36 of criminal profiteering, or by an offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100,  
37 then to the state general fund or antiprofitteering revolving fund of  
38 the county, as appropriate, to the extent not already ordered to be  
39 paid in other damages, of the following:

1 (i) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in  
2 violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 to the extent of the  
3 investment of funds, and any appreciation or income attributable to  
4 the investment, from a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

5 (ii) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property  
6 used to influence any enterprise that a person has established,  
7 operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of,  
8 in violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

9 (iii) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense  
10 included in the pattern of criminal profiteering activity, or an  
11 offense defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102,  
12 9.68A.103, or 9A.88.070, and all moneys, negotiable instruments,  
13 securities, and other things of value significantly used or intended  
14 to be used significantly to facilitate commission of the offense.

15 (g) Ordering payment to the state general fund or  
16 antiprofitereering revolving fund of the county, as appropriate, of an  
17 amount equal to the gain a person has acquired or maintained through  
18 an offense included in the definition of criminal profiteering.

19 (5) In addition to or in lieu of an action under this section,  
20 the attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may file an  
21 action for forfeiture to the state general fund or antiprofitereering  
22 revolving fund of the county, as appropriate, to the extent not  
23 already ordered paid pursuant to this section, of the following:

24 (a) Any interest acquired or maintained by a person in violation  
25 of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 to the extent of the investment of  
26 funds obtained from a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 and any  
27 appreciation or income attributable to the investment.

28 (b) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property  
29 used to influence any enterprise that a person has established,  
30 operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of,  
31 in violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

32 (c) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense included  
33 in the pattern of criminal profiteering activity, or an offense  
34 defined in RCW 9A.40.100, 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, 9.68A.103,  
35 or 9A.88.070, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, and  
36 other things of value significantly used or intended to be used  
37 significantly to facilitate the commission of the offense.

38 (6) A defendant convicted in any criminal proceeding is precluded  
39 in any civil proceeding from denying the essential allegations of the  
40 criminal offense proven in the criminal trial in which the defendant

1 was convicted. For the purposes of this subsection, a conviction  
2 shall be deemed to have occurred upon a verdict, finding, or plea of  
3 guilty, notwithstanding the fact that appellate review of the  
4 conviction and sentence has been or may be sought. If a subsequent  
5 reversal of the conviction occurs, any judgment that was based upon  
6 that conviction may be reopened upon motion of the defendant.

7 (7) The initiation of civil proceedings under this section shall  
8 be commenced within the later of the following periods:

9 (a) Within three years after discovery of the pattern of criminal  
10 profiteering activity or after the pattern should reasonably have  
11 been discovered; or ((~~7-in~~))

12 (b) In the case of an offense that is defined in RCW 9A.40.100,  
13 ((~~within~~)) 9.68A.100, 9.68A.101, 9.68A.102, and 9.68A.103:

14 (i) Within three years of the act alleged to have caused the  
15 injury or condition;

16 (ii) Within three years of the time the victim discovered or  
17 reasonably should have discovered that the injury or condition was  
18 caused by said act;

19 (iii) Within three years of the time the victim discovered that  
20 the act caused the injury for which the claim is brought; or

21 (iv) Within three years after the final disposition of any  
22 criminal charges relating to the offense ((~~7- whichever is later~~)).

23 (8) The attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may, in a  
24 civil action brought pursuant to this section, file with the clerk of  
25 the superior court a certificate stating that the case is of special  
26 public importance. A copy of that certificate shall be furnished  
27 immediately by the clerk to the presiding chief judge of the superior  
28 court in which the action is pending and, upon receipt of the copy,  
29 the judge shall immediately designate a judge to hear and determine  
30 the action. The judge so designated shall promptly assign the action  
31 for hearing, participate in the hearings and determination, and cause  
32 the action to be expedited.

33 (9) The standard of proof in actions brought pursuant to this  
34 section is the preponderance of the evidence test.

35 (10) A person other than the attorney general or county  
36 prosecuting attorney who files an action under this section shall  
37 serve notice and one copy of the pleading on the attorney general  
38 within thirty days after the action is filed with the superior court.  
39 The notice shall identify the action, the person, and the person's  
40 attorney. Service of the notice does not limit or otherwise affect

1 the right of the state to maintain an action under this section or  
2 intervene in a pending action nor does it authorize the person to  
3 name the state or the attorney general as a party to the action.

4 (11) Except in cases filed by a county prosecuting attorney, the  
5 attorney general may, upon timely application, intervene in any civil  
6 action or proceeding brought under this section if the attorney  
7 general certifies that in the attorney general's opinion the action  
8 is of special public importance. Upon intervention, the attorney  
9 general may assert any available claim and is entitled to the same  
10 relief as if the attorney general had instituted a separate action.

11 (12) In addition to the attorney general's right to intervene as  
12 a party in any action under this section, the attorney general may  
13 appear as amicus curiae in any proceeding in which a claim under this  
14 section has been asserted or in which a court is interpreting RCW  
15 9A.82.010, 9A.82.080, 9A.82.090, 9A.82.110, or 9A.82.120, or this  
16 section.

17 (13) A private civil action under this section does not limit any  
18 other civil or criminal action under this chapter or any other  
19 provision. Private civil remedies provided under this section are  
20 supplemental and not mutually exclusive.

21 (14) Upon motion by the defendant, the court may authorize the  
22 sale or transfer of assets subject to an order or lien authorized by  
23 this chapter for the purpose of paying actual attorney's fees and  
24 costs of defense. The motion shall specify the assets for which sale  
25 or transfer is sought and shall be accompanied by the defendant's  
26 sworn statement that the defendant has no other assets available for  
27 such purposes. No order authorizing such sale or transfer may be  
28 entered unless the court finds that the assets involved are not  
29 subject to possible forfeiture under RCW 9A.82.100(4)(f). Prior to  
30 disposition of the motion, the court shall notify the state of the  
31 assets sought to be sold or transferred and shall hear argument on  
32 the issue of whether the assets are subject to forfeiture under RCW  
33 9A.82.100(4)(f). Such a motion may be made from time to time and  
34 shall be heard by the court on an expedited basis.

35 (15) In an action brought under subsection (1)(a) and (b)(i) of  
36 this section, either party has the right to a jury trial.

37 **PART V - VICTIM PRIVACY**



1       **Sec. 20.** RCW 10.97.130 and 2019 c 300 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Information revealing the specific details that describe the  
4 alleged or proven child victim of sexual assault or commercial sexual  
5 exploitation under age (~~(eighteen)~~) 18, or the identity or contact  
6 information of an alleged or proven child victim of sexual assault or  
7 commercial sexual exploitation under age (~~(eighteen)~~) 18 is  
8 confidential and not subject to release to the press or public  
9 without the permission of the child victim and the child's legal  
10 guardian. Identifying information includes the child victim's name,  
11 addresses, location, photographs, and in cases in which the child  
12 victim is a relative, stepchild, or stepsibling of the alleged  
13 perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the child and  
14 the alleged perpetrator. Contact information includes phone numbers,  
15 email addresses, social media profiles, and user names and passwords.  
16 Contact information or information identifying the child victim of  
17 sexual assault or commercial sexual exploitation may be released to  
18 law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, or private  
19 or governmental agencies that provide services to the child victim of  
20 sexual assault. Prior to release of any criminal history record  
21 information, the releasing agency shall delete any contact  
22 information or information identifying a child victim of sexual  
23 assault or commercial sexual exploitation from the information except  
24 as provided in this section.

25       (2) This section does not apply to court documents or other  
26 materials admitted in open judicial proceedings.

27       (3) For purposes of this section, "commercial sexual  
28 exploitation" has the same meaning as in RCW 7.105.010.

29       **Sec. 21.** RCW 42.56.240 and 2022 c 268 s 31 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31       The following investigative, law enforcement, and crime victim  
32 information is exempt from public inspection and copying under this  
33 chapter:

34       (1) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative  
35 records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology  
36 agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to  
37 discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is  
38 essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any  
39 person's right to privacy;

1 (2) Information revealing the identity of persons who are  
2 witnesses to or victims of crime or who file complaints with  
3 investigative, law enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the  
4 commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical  
5 safety, or property. If at the time a complaint is filed the  
6 complainant, victim, or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or  
7 nondisclosure, such desire shall govern. However, all complaints  
8 filed with the commission about any elected official or candidate for  
9 public office must be made in writing and signed by the complainant  
10 under oath;

11 (3) Any records of investigative reports prepared by any state,  
12 county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency pertaining to sex  
13 offenses contained in chapter 9A.44 RCW or sexually violent offenses  
14 as defined in RCW 71.09.020, which have been transferred to the  
15 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for permanent  
16 electronic retention and retrieval pursuant to RCW 40.14.070(2)(b);

17 (4) License applications under RCW 9.41.070, except that copies  
18 of license applications or information on the applications may be  
19 released to law enforcement or corrections agencies or to persons and  
20 entities as authorized under RCW 9.41.815;

21 (5) (a) Information revealing the specific details that describe  
22 an alleged or proven child victim of sexual assault or commercial  
23 sexual exploitation under age (~~eighteen~~) 18, or the identity or  
24 contact information of an alleged or proven child victim of sexual  
25 assault or commercial sexual exploitation who is under age  
26 (~~eighteen~~) 18. Identifying information includes the child victim's  
27 name, addresses, location, photograph, and in cases in which the  
28 child victim is a relative, stepchild, or stepsibling of the alleged  
29 perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the child and  
30 the alleged perpetrator. Contact information includes phone numbers,  
31 email addresses, social media profiles, and user names and passwords.

32 (b) For purposes of this subsection (5), "commercial sexual  
33 exploitation" has the same meaning as in RCW 7.105.010;

34 (6) Information contained in a local or regionally maintained  
35 gang database as well as the statewide gang database referenced in  
36 RCW 43.43.762;

37 (7) Data from the electronic sales tracking system established in  
38 RCW 69.43.165;

39 (8) Information submitted to the statewide unified sex offender  
40 notification and registration program under RCW 36.28A.040(6) by a

1 person for the purpose of receiving notification regarding a  
2 registered sex offender, including the person's name, residential  
3 address, and email address;

4 (9) Personally identifying information collected by law  
5 enforcement agencies pursuant to local security alarm system programs  
6 and vacation crime watch programs. Nothing in this subsection shall  
7 be interpreted so as to prohibit the legal owner of a residence or  
8 business from accessing information regarding his or her residence or  
9 business;

10 (10) The felony firearm offense conviction database of felony  
11 firearm offenders established in RCW 43.43.822;

12 (11) The identity of a state employee or officer who has in good  
13 faith filed a complaint with an ethics board, as provided in RCW  
14 42.52.410, or who has in good faith reported improper governmental  
15 action, as defined in RCW 42.40.020, to the auditor or other public  
16 official, as defined in RCW 42.40.020;

17 (12) The following security threat group information collected  
18 and maintained by the department of corrections pursuant to RCW  
19 72.09.745: (a) Information that could lead to the identification of a  
20 person's security threat group status, affiliation, or activities;  
21 (b) information that reveals specific security threats associated  
22 with the operation and activities of security threat groups; and (c)  
23 information that identifies the number of security threat group  
24 members, affiliates, or associates;

25 (13) The global positioning system data that would indicate the  
26 location of the residence of an employee or worker of a criminal  
27 justice agency as defined in RCW 10.97.030;

28 (14) Body worn camera recordings to the extent nondisclosure is  
29 essential for the protection of any person's right to privacy as  
30 described in RCW 42.56.050, including, but not limited to, the  
31 circumstances enumerated in (a) of this subsection. A law enforcement  
32 or corrections agency shall not disclose a body worn camera recording  
33 to the extent the recording is exempt under this subsection.

34 (a) Disclosure of a body worn camera recording is presumed to be  
35 highly offensive to a reasonable person under RCW 42.56.050 to the  
36 extent it depicts:

37 (i) (A) Any areas of a medical facility, counseling, or  
38 therapeutic program office where:

1 (I) A patient is registered to receive treatment, receiving  
2 treatment, waiting for treatment, or being transported in the course  
3 of treatment; or  
4 (II) Health care information is shared with patients, their  
5 families, or among the care team; or  
6 (B) Information that meets the definition of protected health  
7 information for purposes of the health insurance portability and  
8 accountability act of 1996 or health care information for purposes of  
9 chapter 70.02 RCW;  
10 (ii) The interior of a place of residence where a person has a  
11 reasonable expectation of privacy;  
12 (iii) An intimate image;  
13 (iv) A minor;  
14 (v) The body of a deceased person;  
15 (vi) The identity of or communications from a victim or witness  
16 of an incident involving domestic violence as defined in RCW  
17 10.99.020 or sexual assault as defined in RCW 70.125.030, or  
18 disclosure of intimate images as defined in RCW 9A.86.010. If at the  
19 time of recording the victim or witness indicates a desire for  
20 disclosure or nondisclosure of the recorded identity or  
21 communications, such desire shall govern; or  
22 (vii) The identifiable location information of a community-based  
23 domestic violence program as defined in RCW 70.123.020, or emergency  
24 shelter as defined in RCW 70.123.020.  
25 (b) The presumptions set out in (a) of this subsection may be  
26 rebutted by specific evidence in individual cases.  
27 (c) In a court action seeking the right to inspect or copy a body  
28 worn camera recording, a person who prevails against a law  
29 enforcement or corrections agency that withholds or discloses all or  
30 part of a body worn camera recording pursuant to (a) of this  
31 subsection is not entitled to fees, costs, or awards pursuant to RCW  
32 42.56.550 unless it is shown that the law enforcement or corrections  
33 agency acted in bad faith or with gross negligence.  
34 (d) A request for body worn camera recordings must:  
35 (i) Specifically identify a name of a person or persons involved  
36 in the incident;  
37 (ii) Provide the incident or case number;  
38 (iii) Provide the date, time, and location of the incident or  
39 incidents; or

1 (iv) Identify a law enforcement or corrections officer involved  
2 in the incident or incidents.

3 (e) (i) A person directly involved in an incident recorded by the  
4 requested body worn camera recording, an attorney representing a  
5 person directly involved in an incident recorded by the requested  
6 body worn camera recording, a person or his or her attorney who  
7 requests a body worn camera recording relevant to a criminal case  
8 involving that person, or the executive director from either the  
9 Washington state commission on African American affairs, Asian  
10 Pacific American affairs, or Hispanic affairs, has the right to  
11 obtain the body worn camera recording, subject to any exemption under  
12 this chapter or any applicable law. In addition, an attorney who  
13 represents a person regarding a potential or existing civil cause of  
14 action involving the denial of civil rights under the federal or  
15 state Constitution, or a violation of a United States department of  
16 justice settlement agreement, has the right to obtain the body worn  
17 camera recording if relevant to the cause of action, subject to any  
18 exemption under this chapter or any applicable law. The attorney must  
19 explain the relevancy of the requested body worn camera recording to  
20 the cause of action and specify that he or she is seeking relief from  
21 redaction costs under this subsection (14) (e).

22 (ii) A law enforcement or corrections agency responding to  
23 requests under this subsection (14) (e) may not require the requesting  
24 individual to pay costs of any redacting, altering, distorting,  
25 pixelating, suppressing, or otherwise obscuring any portion of a body  
26 worn camera recording.

27 (iii) A law enforcement or corrections agency may require any  
28 person requesting a body worn camera recording pursuant to this  
29 subsection (14) (e) to identify himself or herself to ensure he or she  
30 is a person entitled to obtain the body worn camera recording under  
31 this subsection (14) (e).

32 (f) (i) A law enforcement or corrections agency responding to a  
33 request to disclose body worn camera recordings may require any  
34 requester not listed in (e) of this subsection to pay the reasonable  
35 costs of redacting, altering, distorting, pixelating, suppressing, or  
36 otherwise obscuring any portion of the body worn camera recording  
37 prior to disclosure only to the extent necessary to comply with the  
38 exemptions in this chapter or any applicable law.

39 (ii) An agency that charges redaction costs under this subsection  
40 (14) (f) must use redaction technology that provides the least costly

1 commercially available method of redacting body worn camera  
2 recordings, to the extent possible and reasonable.

3 (iii) In any case where an agency charges a requestor for the  
4 costs of redacting a body worn camera recording under this subsection  
5 (14) (f), the time spent on redaction of the recording shall not count  
6 towards the agency's allocation of, or limitation on, time or costs  
7 spent responding to public records requests under this chapter, as  
8 established pursuant to local ordinance, policy, procedure, or state  
9 law.

10 (g) For purposes of this subsection (14):

11 (i) "Body worn camera recording" means a video and/or sound  
12 recording that is made by a body worn camera attached to the uniform  
13 or eyewear of a law enforcement or corrections officer while in the  
14 course of his or her official duties; and

15 (ii) "Intimate image" means an individual or individuals engaged  
16 in sexual activity, including sexual intercourse as defined in RCW  
17 9A.44.010 and masturbation, or an individual's intimate body parts,  
18 whether nude or visible through less than opaque clothing, including  
19 the genitals, pubic area, anus, or postpubescent female nipple.

20 (h) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict  
21 access to body worn camera recordings as otherwise permitted by law  
22 for official or recognized civilian and accountability bodies or  
23 pursuant to any court order.

24 (i) Nothing in this section is intended to modify the obligations  
25 of prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement under *Brady v. Maryland*,  
26 373 U.S. 83, 83 S. Ct. 1194, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215 (1963), *Kyles v.*  
27 *Whitley*, 541 U.S. 419, 115 S. Ct. 1555, 131 L. Ed.2d 490 (1995), and  
28 the relevant Washington court criminal rules and statutes.

29 (j) A law enforcement or corrections agency must retain body worn  
30 camera recordings for at least (~~sixty~~) 60 days and thereafter may  
31 destroy the records in accordance with the applicable records  
32 retention schedule;

33 (15) Any records and information contained within the statewide  
34 sexual assault kit tracking system established in RCW 43.43.545;

35 (16) (a) Survivor communications with, and survivor records  
36 maintained by, campus-affiliated advocates.

37 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to restrict  
38 access to records maintained by a campus-affiliated advocate in the  
39 event that:

40 (i) The survivor consents to inspection or copying;

1 (ii) There is a clear, imminent risk of serious physical injury  
2 or death of the survivor or another person;

3 (iii) Inspection or copying is required by federal law; or

4 (iv) A court of competent jurisdiction mandates that the record  
5 be available for inspection or copying.

6 (c) "Campus-affiliated advocate" and "survivor" have the  
7 definitions in RCW 28B.112.030;

8 (17) Information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained  
9 by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs and  
10 information and records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the  
11 Washington state patrol pursuant to chapter 261, Laws of 2017; and

12 (18) Any and all audio or video recordings of child forensic  
13 interviews as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW. Such recordings are  
14 confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to a court order  
15 entered upon a showing of good cause and with advance notice to the  
16 child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian. However, if the child  
17 is an emancipated minor or has attained the age of majority as  
18 defined in RCW 26.28.010, advance notice must be to the child.  
19 Failure to disclose an audio or video recording of a child forensic  
20 interview as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW is not grounds for  
21 penalties or other sanctions available under this chapter.

22 **PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS**

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** If any provision of this act or its  
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
25 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
26 persons or circumstances is not affected.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** This act takes effect July 1, 2025."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Retains all of the provisions of the underlying bill and  
also:

Modifies the crimes of Trafficking in the first and second  
degrees.

Requires the Washington State Auditor to conduct a performance  
audit on fees collected for violations of trafficking crimes.

Modifies where collected fees must be distributed and how such  
fees must be used.

Reestablishes the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children  
Statewide Coordinating Committee.

Provides that the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) may file a petition for a sexual assault protection order, rather than an ex parte temporary sexual assault protection order, on behalf of a minor when the DCYF has reason to believe a minor lacks the ability or capacity to consent.

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