CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1509

Chapter 165, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature
2025 Regular Session

FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES—VARIOUS PROVISIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2025—Except for section 4, which takes effect June 1, 2025.

Passed by the House March 11, 2025
Yeas 93 Nays 2

LAURIE JINKINS

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2025
Yeas 48 Nays 0

JOHN LOVICK

President of the Senate

Approved April 25, 2025 9:54 AM

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1509** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 25, 2025

Secretary of State
State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1509

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Taylor, Dent, Davis, Reed, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

AN ACT Relating to family reconciliation services; amending RCW 13.32A.040 and 13.32A.045; reenacting and amending RCW 13.32A.030; adding a new section to chapter 13.32A RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 13.32A.030 and 2020 c 51 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) "Community-based family reconciliation services" means family reconciliation services as defined in this section that are provided by a community-based entity under contract with the department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Parent training;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Still offer family reconciliation services; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The nature of the family conflict;

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

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

(g) Recommendations for improving family reconciliation services;

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

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

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

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

By July 1, 2025, and subject to the amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall offer a contract or contracts to provide community-based family reconciliation services in at least one location that is already providing community-based family reconciliation services.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 1, 2025.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

Passed by the House March 11, 2025.
Passed by the Senate April 15, 2025.
Approved by the Governor April 25, 2025.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 25, 2025.

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