

**PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
5501 6TH AVENUE, TACOMA, WA 98406-2697
(253) 798-7900**

INFORMATION REGARDING AT-RISK YOUTH

The following requirements for Filing and Notice of Rights information correspond with the effective date July 23, 1995.

THE PARENT MUST HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES (FRS) AND BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A FAMILY ASSESSMENT VERIFICATION BEFORE FILING A PETITION. THE FAMILY ASSESSMENT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF CONTACT BEING MADE WITH FRS. PLEASE CALL FRS AT (253) 983-6100 OR 1-800-422-7517. IF YOU ARE CALLING AFTER 4:30 PM ON A WEEKEND OR HOLIDAY, CALL 1-800-562-5624.

An At-Risk Youth is defined as a youth under age 18 who:

1. Is absent from home at least 72 consecutive hours without the consent of his/her parent; or:
2. Is beyond parental control such that the youth's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of that youth or any other person; and
3. Alternatives to court intervention have been attempted or there is good cause why such alternatives have not been attempted; or
4. Has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse; and
5. The petitioner has the right to legal custody.
 - a. Read all the enclosures in this packet so that you will know what is required of you and what to expect.
 - b. When filling out the petition, you must give facts to support your request for the petition. The petition gives directions and space for that information. The court needs this information to understand the situation that has led you to this legal request.
 - c. You will be asked at the hearing what relief you are seeking, therefore it is not necessary to address that issue in the petition.

After obtaining the family assessment, the petition may be filed at the clerk's office. You will be instructed on how to fill out your petition. When you have finished filling out the petition, a case number will be assigned and a hearing date set.

AT-RISK YOUTH RCW 13.32A PARENT'S RIGHTS AND ADVISEMENT

THE COURT MUST ADVISE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. When a properly completed At-Risk Youth Petition is filed by a parent, the Juvenile Court shall:
 - a. Schedule a fact-finding hearing to be held and give the parent the Notice of Hearing, as well as additional copies to provide for service to other parties. Service is to be done by a person age 18 or older and who is not a party to this case;
 - b. **NOTIFY THE PARENT OF THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL AT THE PARENT'S OWN EXPENSE;**
 - c. Appoint legal counsel for the youth;
 - d. Inform youth and his/her parent(s) of the legal consequences of the court finding the youth to be at risk; and
 - e. Notify the parent and the youth of their right to present evidence at the fact-finding hearing.

2. In all At-Risk Youth proceedings, the court shall verbally notify the parent(s) and the youth of the possibility of a finding of contempt for failure to comply with the terms of a court order entered pursuant to 13.32A.250, section 29.
 - a. Failure by a party to comply with an order entered is contempt of court as provided in chapter 7.21 RCW;
 - b. The court may impose a fine of up to \$100 and confinement of up to seven (7) days, or both, for contempt of court;
 - c. A youth placed in confinement for contempt shall be placed in confinement only in a secure juvenile detention facility operated by or pursuant to a contract with a county;
 - d. A motion for contempt may be made by a parent, a youth, Juvenile Court personnel, or by any public agency, organization or person having custody of the youth under a court order.

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH PETITION

1. The parent must obtain a Family Assessment Verification Form from Family Reconciliation Services through the Department of Children and Family Services at 1949 South State Street, Tacoma, Washington 98405 at 1-800-562-5624. Family Reconciliation Services shall present the parent with a Family Assessment Verification within two working days AFTER being contacted by the parent, or will acknowledge in writing that they are unable to perform said assessment within required time.
2. The parent must properly complete an At-Risk-Youth Petition and file with Pierce County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office.
3. Juvenile court shall set a fact-finding date.
4. The parent of the youth has the right to be represented by an attorney at the Parent's expense.
5. An attorney will be appointed for the youth.
6. The court shall hold a fact-finding hearing and upon granting the petition and finding the youth is at risk, an order shall be entered requiring the youth to reside in the home of his/her parent(s) or in an out-of-home placement as provided in RCW 13.32A.192(2). **IF AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT IS AGREED TO – THE PARENT SHALL BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE.**
7. A dispositional hearing shall be held no later than fourteen (14) days after the court has granted an At-Risk Youth Petition. The court will notify all parties of the date and time of the hearing.
8. At the dispositional hearing, the court shall consider the recommendations of the parties. The court may enter a dispositional order that will assist the parent(s) in maintaining the care, custody, and control of the youth and assist the family in resolving conflicts/problems.
9. The court may set conditions of supervision for the youth that include:
 - a. Regular school attendance;
 - b. Counseling;
 - c. Participation in a substance abuse or mental health out-patient treatment program;
 - d. Reporting on a regular basis to the Department of Children and Family Services or any other designated person or agency; and

- e. Any other condition the court deems as an appropriate condition of supervision.
10. The court may order the parent to participate in counseling services or any other services for the youth requiring parental participation.
 - a. The parent(s) shall cooperate with the court-ordered plan and shall take necessary steps to help implement the case plan.
 - b. The parent(s) shall be financially responsible for costs related to the court-ordered plan; however, this requirement shall not affect the eligibility of the parent(s) or youth for public assistance or other benefits to which the parent(s) or youth may otherwise be entitled.
 11. The court must review the case within three (3) months after the dispositional hearing.
 12. The court cannot continue the case past 180 days following the three (3) month review hearing unless the court finds, and the parent(s) agree, that there are compelling reasons for an extension of supervision.
 13. Any extension granted cannot exceed 90 days.
 14. The court may dismiss an At-Risk Youth proceeding at any time if there is good cause to believe court would serve no useful purpose or the parent is not cooperating with the court-ordered case plan.
 15. The parent may request the dismissal of an At-Risk-Youth proceeding or out-of-home placement at any time.
 16. If, after the court has set conditions that the youth must abide by, the youth does not do so, the parent may come to the Clerk's Office and fill out a motion for a Contempt of Court hearing. The clerk will set a date and give the parent a Notice of Hearing. The filing parent will be provided with copies to have the other parties served.