

When a proper at-risk youth petition is filed by a child parent, the juvenile court shall:

1. Schedule a fact-finding hearing; if the at-risk youth petition is established, the matter goes on to disposition

At the dispositional hearing regarding an adjudicated at-risk youth the court:

- Shall consider the recommendations of the parties and the recommendations of any dispositional plan submitted by DSHS.
- May enter a dispositional order that will assist the parent in maintaining the care, custody, and control of the child and assist the family to resolve family conflicts or problems.
- May set conditions of supervision for the child that include:
  - Regular school attendance
  - Counseling
  - Participation in a substance abuse or mental health outpatient treatment program
  - Reporting on a regular basis to the department or any other designated person or agency
- May order the parent to participate in counseling services to any other services for the child requiring parental participation.
- May order the department to monitor compliance with the dispositional order, assist in coordinating the provision of court ordered services, and submit reports at subsequent review hearings regarding the status of the case.
- Shall not include in the order or condition of supervision, involuntary commitment of a child for substance abuse or mental health treatment.

Except as otherwise provided, the juvenile court shall not accept the filing of an at-risk- youth petition by the parent or guardian, unless verification is provided that a family assessment has been completed by the DSHS. If the department is unable to complete an assessment within two working days following a request for the assessment, the child or parent or guardian may proceed to file an at-risk youth petition.

2. A review hearing is held 30 days after disposition. if the child is found to be in contempt for violation of the court order established at disposition, s/he may receive detention time. If the child is placed in a juvenile detention facility, a

review hearing shall be held within twenty four hours.

3. The petition expires 9 months after the 30-day review; however, a motion for dismissal may be filed at any point. The parent or guardian may request dismissal of an at-risk youth proceeding or out-of-home placement at any time upon such a request. The court shall dismiss the matter and cease supervision for the child unless:

- A contempt action is pending in the case
- A petition has been filed and a hearing has not yet been held, or
- An order has been entered and the court retains jurisdiction under that subsection

Court supervision of the child may not be continued past one hundred eighty days from the day the review hearing commenced unless the court finds, and the parent or guardian agrees, that there are compelling reasons for an extension of the supervision. Any extension shall not exceed ninety days.

**Juvenile Justice Center 509-524-2800**

**National Runaway Switchboard, 3080 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657 Phone: (773) 880-9860  
Fax: (773) 929-5150**

**KEEPING AMERICA'S RUNAWAY AND AT-RISK YOUTH  
SAFE AND OFF THE STREETS. CALL 1-800-786-2929**

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year. Our mission at the National Runaway Switchboard is to help keep America's runaway and at-risk-youth safe and off the streets. Our services are provided in part through funding from [Family and Youth Services Bureau](#) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you are a teenager who is thinking of running from home, if you have a friend who has run and is looking for help, or if you are a runaway ready to go home through our [Home Free program](#). Call if you are a teacher looking for information to pass along to your students about alternatives to running from home. Call if you care about a youth and want information on how you can help someone who may be at risk of running from home.

Our 24-hour crisis line has an experienced front-line team member ready to help you now. It's anonymous, confidential and free. 1-800-RUNAWAY.

- <http://www.1800runaway.org>

## **Parent or Guardian Information Concerning Runaway Youth**



**WALLA WALLA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**240 W. Alder Street, #101  
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362**

**Phone: (509) 524-5400**

**Fax: (509) 524-5480**

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[www.co.walla-walla.wa.us](http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us)**



## Basic Information about runaways

Being a runaway is **NOT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE**. A runaway is a minor who is reported missing because his/her whereabouts are unknown to the child's legal custodian; the circumstances of whose absence indicate that the child voluntarily left the care and control of his legal custodian without the custodian's consent and without intent to return and has been gone for a period of time. A runaway may include a minor in the company of another person or is in a situation the circumstances of which indicate that the missing child's or missing person's safety is in doubt, or a minor who is unemancipated as defined by the law of the state.

When identified by authorities, a peace officer will return the minor to the minor's parent or guardian at the parent's or guardian's residence if the residence is in the same community where the minor was found and if the minor's parent or guardian consents to the return; except that the officer may not use this option if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the minor has experienced physical or sexual abuse in the parent's or guardian's household. It may also be possible to take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor's parent or guardian if the parent or guardian does not consent to return of the minor. The minor might also be taken to an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services, a program for runaway minors, or a shelter for runaways that agrees to shelter the minor. If the runaway is located outside the agencies jurisdiction the guardian is responsible for transportation.

## What you can expect from this office

- Report to be taken if their location is unknown
- Runaway to be entered into NCIC/WASIC
- Follow up on any tips or leads as time permits

## What you can do to help

- Call everyone your child knows and enlist their help. Search everywhere, but do not leave your phone unattended.

- Search your teens room for anything that may give you a clue as to where he/she went. You may also want to check your phone bill for any calls they may have made recently.
- Call the Sheriff's Office or Dispatch as soon as your child comes home. **Once they are entered as a runaway they need to be cleared from the system.**

## When your teen comes homes

### Take a break from each other.

Do not start talking about it right away. Your emotions are too high at this point to get anywhere in a conversation. Go two separate directions until you both have gotten some rest.

### Ask and Listen.

Why did they leave? You may want to evaluate a rule or two after speaking with them, but do not do so while having this talk. Tell them you are willing to think about it, and you will let them know.

### Talk!

Tell them how you felt about them going, let them know that they hurt you by leaving. Let them know that there isn't a problem that you, together can't solve. If they ever feel that running away might solve something, have them talk to you first. You could always offer other choices so they can make a better decision.

### Get some help.

If this isn't the first time or you have problems communicating when they get back, it's time to ask for help. This could be a person that your child respects, ie. aunt or uncle, or you may want to seek professional help. One place to check online is Raising Today's Teen.

## RCW 13.32A.080 Unlawful harboring of a minor-Penalty-Defense-Prosecution of adult for involving child in commission of offense.

1)(a) A person commits the crime of unlawful harboring of a minor if the person provides shelter to a minor without the consent of a parent of the minor and after the person knows that the minor is away from the home of the parent, without the parent's permission, and if the person intentionally:

- (i) Fails to release the minor to a law enforcement officer after being requested to do so by the officer; or
- (ii) Fails to disclose the location of the minor to a law enforcement officer after being requested to do so by the officer, if the person knows the location of the minor and had either taken the minor to that location or had assisted the

minor in reaching that location; or

(iii) Obstructs a law enforcement officer from taking the minor into custody; or

(iv) Assists the minor in avoiding or attempting to avoid the custody of the law enforcement officer.

(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the defendant had custody of the minor pursuant to a court order.

(2) Unlawful harboring of a minor is punishable as a gross misdemeanor.

## Walla Walla/Columbia County At Risk Youth Program

A child's parent or guardian may file with the juvenile court, in a petition, in the interest of a child alleged to be an at-risk-youth. The petition shall set forth the name, age, residence of the child and the names and residence(s) of the child's parent or guardian and shall allege that:

*The child is an at-risk youth defined as a person under 18 years of age who:*

- Is absent from the home at least 72 consecutive hours without parental consent
- Is beyond parental or guardian control such that the child endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or any other person
- Has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges related to substance abuse

*The petitioner has the right to legal custody of the child.*

*Court intervention and supervision are necessary to assist the parent to maintain the care, custody, and control of the child.*

*Alternatives to court intervention have been attempted or there is good cause why such alternatives have not been attempted.*