

At-Risk Youth (ARY)

Purpose: To obtain assistance and support from the juvenile court after alternatives to court intervention have been attempted.

Definition: A child under the age of 18 who meets at least one of the following three requirements:

1. Is absent from home for at least 72 consecutive hours without parental consent.
2. Is beyond parental control; his/her behavior endangers the child or any other person.
3. Has a substance abuse problem with no pending criminal charges relating to the substance abuse.

Who May File: Only the parent of the child may file the ARY petition.

- This is a voluntary process and a parent may request a dismissal at any time.

Child in Need of Services (CHINS)

Purpose: To obtain a court order mandating placement of the child in a residence other than the home.

Definition: A child under the age of 18 who meets at least one of the following three requirements:

1. Has been absent from their place of residence for at least 24 consecutive hours and has been reported to law enforcement on two or more separate occasions; and
 - a. Has a serious substance abuse problem; or
 - b. Behaviors create serious risk of harm to the child or any other person.
2. Is beyond parental control; his/her behavior endangers the child or any other person.
3. Is in need of basic living necessities (including educational); and lacks access to or has declined to utilize these services and parents have been unsuccessful in their efforts to maintain the family structure and cannot continue efforts.

Who May File: A child, parent, or DSHS may file a CHINS petition.

- Upon the filing, the child may be placed, if not already placed, by DSHS in a crisis residential center, foster family home, licensed group home facility, or any other suitable residence to be determined by DSHS.

How to File a Petition for ARY and CHINS

Obtain a Family Assessment: Contact Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) office at DSHS and request an appointment for intake and assessment. #253-983-6100 or 1-800-422-7517. After 4:30 pm, weekends and Holidays, Central Intake at #1-800-562-5624.

Costs: The parent shall be financially responsible for costs related to the court-ordered plan (counseling, drug/alcohol evaluations/treatment, mental health evaluations, etc.).

For more information about ARY and CHINS, please go to:

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/juvct/courtservices.htm>

Positive Steps at Puget Sound Educational Service District

Purpose: To help families and students involved with truancy (a BECCA petition has been filed) or At-Risk Youth Court succeed in school by supporting the family as they implement their plan for improving school attendance.

Assessment and Services:

- Students and parents complete assessment questionnaires to identify barriers to school attendance.
- Positive Steps staff meets with the family in their home or another convenient location to talk about reasons for absences.
- Together, the family and Positive Steps staff identifies a plan to reduce the barriers to school attendance and to improve students' lives.
- The student is engaged in an appropriate school program.
- When appropriate, the family is provided with Functional Family Therapy, a parent partner and/or resources from the Positive Steps team.
- Positive Steps staff is in frequent contact with the family and student to support the plan's implementation.
- The family is linked to other community resources.
- The student's attendance is monitored to ensure improvement.

For a referral to services please contact:

Jennie Nicolls

White River High School Social Worker

#360-829-5512

