How do I file an At-Risk Youth Petition?

1. Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian needs to call Department of Children, Youth, and Families at 855-420-5888
2. When speaking to Intake, state that you are requesting an **At-Risk Youth Petition.** The intake person will ask you numerous questions about the situation with your child
3. After talking with Intake, your request will be referred to a case worker who will call you to set up an appointment
4. The case worker will meet with you and *if* appropriate, will give you the paperwork to file the petition
5. You will take your completed paperwork to the Benton Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center where it will be assigned to a probation counselor
6. The probation counselor will contact you regarding signing of paperwork and setting of court hearing

Questions?



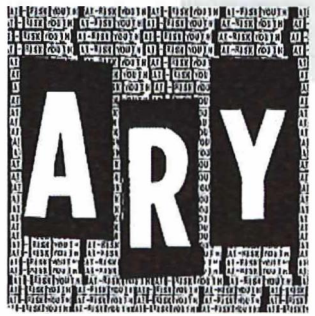
Please call:

Sheila Davidson (509)736-2761

BENTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

5600 W Canal Drive,
Kennewick, WA 99336

At Risk Youth Petition



509-736-2761

Is my child an At-Risk Youth?

The law defines an At-Risk Youth as an individual under the age of 18 years who:

1: Is absent from home for more than 72 consecutive hours without consent of his/her parent(s)/guardian(s); or

2: Is beyond the control of his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) such that the child's behavior substantially endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or another person; or

3: Has a serious substance abuse problem for which there are no pending charges related to substance abuse.

What is the purpose of an At-Risk Youth Petition?

The purpose of this legislation is to empower parents; to use court intervention as a last resort to keep youth at home or in an alternate safe placement.

What happens after I file an At-Risk Youth Petition?

1. The court will appoint an attorney to represent your child.
2. A hearing is set and notice is given to all parties.
3. If the petition is approved by the court, then the court will order the youth to certain terms which *may* include:
    - Reside at home or an alternative placement
    - Attend school
    - Curfew
    - No use of drugs or alcohol, random urinalysis testing, drug/alcohol counseling
    - Attend individual and/or family counseling

What happens if my child doesn't follow the terms of the At-Risk Youth Petition?

1. The parent/guardian must report the violation to the probation counselor.
2. The violation will be set for a hearing and the Judge will determine if your child is in contempt.
3. If your child is found in contempt, they may be ordered to complete community service hours, or engage in other services and interventions.

Youth at Risk