

CHAPTER 192

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 433]

CHILDREN—EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED OR MENTALLY ILL—JUVENILE
OFFENDERS—PLACEMENT AND TREATMENT POLICIES

AN ACT Relating to children and family services; adding a new chapter to Title 74 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature reaffirms its declarations under RCW 13.34.020 that the family unit is the fundamental resource of American life which should be nurtured and that the family unit should remain intact in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary. The legislature declares that the goal of serving emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict in their own homes to avoid out-of-home placement of the child, when that form of care is premature, unnecessary, or inappropriate, is a high priority of this state.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The department of social and health services shall address the needs of emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict by:

(1) Serving children and families as a unit in the least restrictive setting available and in close proximity to the family home, consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child;

(2) Ensuring that appropriate social and health services are provided to the family unit both prior to the removal of a child from the home and after family reunification;

(3) Developing and implementing comprehensive, preventive, and early intervention social and health services which have demonstrated the ability to delay or reduce the need for out-of-home placements and ameliorate problems before they become chronic or severe;

(4) Developing coordinated social and health services which:

(a) Identify problems experienced by children and their families early and provide services which are adequate in availability, appropriate to the situation, and effective;

(b) Seek to bring about meaningful change before family situations become irreversibly destructive and before disturbed psychological behavioral patterns and health problems become severe or permanent;

(c) Serve children and families in their own homes thus preventing unnecessary out-of-home placement or institutionalization;

(d) Focus resources on social and health problems as they begin to manifest themselves rather than waiting for chronic and severe patterns of illness, criminality, and dependency to develop which require long-term treatment, maintenance, or custody;

- (e) Reduce duplication of and gaps in service delivery;
- (f) Improve planning, budgeting, and communication among all units of the department serving children and families; and
- (g) Develop outcome standards for measuring the effectiveness of social and health services for children and families.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department shall address the needs of juvenile offenders whose standard range sentences do not include commitment by developing nonresidential community-based programs designed to reduce the incidence of manifest injustice commitments when consistent with public safety.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The department shall involve a juvenile offender's family as a unit in the treatment process. The department need not involve the family as a unit in cases when family ties have by necessity been irrevocably broken. When the natural parents have been or will be replaced by a foster family or guardian, the new family will be involved in the treatment process.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The department shall develop a plan in cooperation with an advisory committee of community representatives appointed by the secretary for the implementation of sections 2 through 4 of this act for submission to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate by November 15, 1983. The plan shall include:

- (1) Policies and procedures for the coordinated and cooperative functioning of all units of the department serving children and families which eliminate duplications, inconsistencies, and conflicting rules;
- (2) Policies and procedures for the coordinated and cooperative functioning of the department with agencies of local government, schools, courts, and the private sector;
- (3) An evaluation of the desirability and feasibility of locating out-of-home placements, treatment programs, and institutions in close geographical proximity to the area or residence of the child and the family;
- (4) Priorities for all departmental units serving children and families;
- (5) Training initiatives directed toward all departmental units and contractors serving children and families;
- (6) Policies and procedures which address the appropriate role of the department of social and health services in fostering services which address the special needs of parents and their young children. The policies and procedures shall pay attention to the unique needs of culturally diverse groups;
- (7) Policies and procedures designed to ensure coordination between all departmental units serving children and families and the public schools;
- (8) Policies for the evaluation, treatment, and referral of children and families by all departmental units serving children and families;

(9) Procedures for all departmental units serving children and families to use in identifying and meeting the needs of children and families at the local level;

(10) Changes which may be necessary in statutes to permit the full implementation of sections 2 through 4 of this act;

(11) An evaluation of whether the existing organizational structure of the department will permit the full implementation of sections 2 through 4 of this act or whether an alternative organizational structure is more appropriate;

(12) Outcome standards which can be used to measure the effectiveness of social and health service programs; and

(13) Procedures for the establishment of local volunteer oversight groups within each department service area. The oversight group shall be comprised of parents, professionals in the field of children and family services not employed by the department, local government employees in law enforcement or children and family services, and members of other non-profit organizations participating in children and family services activities.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act may be known and cited as the "children and family services act."

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Sections 2 through 4 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1984.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

Passed the House April 23, 1983.

Passed the Senate April 20, 1983.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 1983.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 1983.

CHAPTER 193

[Engrossed House Bill No. 436]

WOOD COLLECTION PERMITS—STATE PARKS—OVER 65 YEARS— EXEMPT

AN ACT Relating to the state parks and recreation commission; adding a new section to chapter 43.51 RCW; and repealing section 2, chapter 114, Laws of 1981 and RCW 43.51.390.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. There is added to chapter 43.51 RCW a new section to read as follows: