

### Petition Review:

A review will be scheduled within three (3) months of the disposition and again within six (6) months of the first review.

### Contempt:

(Willful violation of a court order) A motion for contempt may be made by a parent, child, or by any public agency, organization or person having custody of the child under a CHINS order.

Any further questions concerning CHINS petitions may be directed to:

### Division of Children, Youth and Family Services (DCYFS):

1-888-713-6115

### Kitsap County Juvenile

### Department:

(360) 337-5401

**Brittany Stepper**, Court Services  
Officer

(360) 337-5463

bstepper@co.kitsap.wa.us

**Kyle Barber**, Supervisor

(360) 337-5484

kbarber@co.kitsap.wa.us

1338 SW Old Clifton Rd  
Port Orchard WA 98367  
360-337-5402

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/juv/>

# CHINS

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES



SUPERIOR COURT OF KITSAP COUNTY

Juvenile and Family Court Services

## Steps to file a CHINS Petition:

ONLY a parent or legal guardian can file a CHINS Petition.

1. Call the Division of Children, Youth and Family Services (DCYF): 1-888-713-6115
2. Request to file a CHINS Petition.
3. Request a family assessment. At the family assessment, the caseworker will discuss any services previously provided, resources currently available, and alternatives to court intervention.
4. Following the family assessment, DCYF will provide the parent with a written verification form.
5. Call the Court Services Officer at Kitsap County Juvenile Department (info listed on back of pamphlet) and schedule an appointment to complete and file the petition.

*A petition may not be filed if a dependency action is pending under RCW 13.34.*

*Under some special circumstances, DCYF may file CHINS. If DCYF is the petitioner, the Attorney General represents the agency.*

## CHINS

RCW 13.32A

Child in Need of Services is a juvenile who:

- I. Is beyond the control of his/her parent such that the child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or other person;
- II. Has been reported to law enforcement as absent without consent for at least twenty four (24) consecutive hours from the parents home, a crisis residential center, and out-of-home placement on two or more separate locations;
  - a. Has exhibited a serious substance abuse problem; or
  - b. Has exhibited behaviors which create a serious risk of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the child or any other person;
- III. Is in need of necessary services, including:
  - a. Food, shelter, health care, clothing, educational services designed to maintain or reunite a family whose parents have been unsuccessful, unwilling, or unable to maintain the family structure.

**Counsel:** Upon filing, an attorney will be appointed for the child. The parent is *not* entitled to court-appointed counsel, but may retain private counsel.

**Fact-Finding Hearing:** A fact-finding hearing will be set within five (5) to ten (10) judicial days. However, the matter will proceed only after the child is served with proper notice of the proceeding.

Following the fact-finding hearing the court shall:  
(a) Approve a child in need of services petition and, if appropriate, enter a temporary out-of-home placement for a period not to exceed fourteen days pending approval of a disposition decision to be made under RCW 13.32A.179(2); (b) approve an at-risk youth petition filed by the parents and dismiss the child in need of services petition; or (c) dismiss the petition

**Dispositional Hearing:** A dispositional hearing is set fourteen (14) days after the petition is granted. At this point, the court will and/or may:

- Request an Individual Service Plan (ISP) from DCYF.
- Reunite the family and dismiss the petition.
- Approve CHINS Petition
- Approve a voluntary out-of-home placement
- Recommend DCYF to file a dependency petition
- Order out-of-home placement in accordance with RCW 13.32A (New Section 20)

*No dispositional order or condition of supervision ordered by a court pursuant to RCW 13.32A.196 shall include involuntary commitment of a child for substance abuse or mental health treatment.*