THE BECCA LAW

Designed to Empower Parents to Help Their Children

The BECCA Law was enacted by the Washington State Legislature to:

- Protect children who are endangering themselves
- Keep families together through assessment and treatment services
- Provide tools for schools, parents, and Juvenile Court to keep children in school
- Hold children and parents accountable to the order of the Court

For information or assistance, please contact:

Robert Jalovi
Truancy Prosecuting Attorney
Karen Bond
Truancy Prosecuting Paralegal
477-6046

Truancy Coordinator
477-2412

Tracey Crook
Becca Bill Facilitator
477-2459

Patty Higgins
Probation Officer/Becca Monitor
ARY/CHINS
477-2429

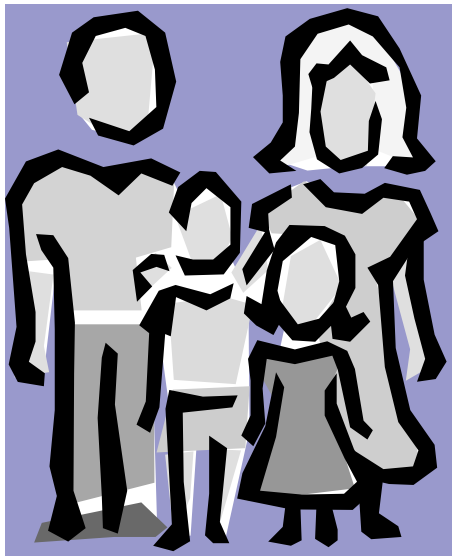
Carl Bruscoe
Probation Officer/Becca Monitor
ARY/CHINS
477-2477

www.spokanecounty.org/juvenilecourt/

SPOKANE COUNTY

Spokane County Juvenile Court
1208 West Mallon Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

THE BECCA LAW



- ***Protecting Children***
- ***Supporting Parents***
- ***Strengthening Families***
- ***Keeping Children in School***

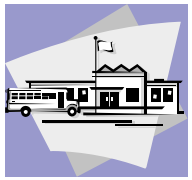
Truancy

Schools must file a truancy petition with Juvenile Court when a child has seven unexcused absences in a month, or ten in a school year, and the parent has been notified.

Juvenile Court will inform the child and parents that a petition has been filed and direct them to work with the school to correct the attendance problem.

Should those efforts fail, Juvenile Court will order the child to attend school and participate in services to reduce barriers to regular school attendance.

The parent can also be ordered to send their child to school and participate in services to ensure regular school attendance.



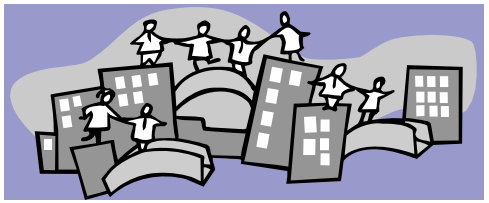
At-Risk Youth (ARY)

Parents may petition Juvenile Court to order their child to remain at home when:

- The child is younger than age 18
- The child has been absent from home, without parental permission, for more than 72 hours
- The child's behavior is beyond the parent's control and endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or another person
- The child has a serious substance abuse or mental health problem
- Families have made an effort to remedy the problem through means such as counseling

Both children and parents can be ordered by Juvenile Court to attend counseling, classes, and other measures to reduce family conflict.

"...the family unit is the fundamental resource of American life which should be nurtured..."
RCW 13.32A



Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

Children, parents, or a DCFS social worker may petition Juvenile Court to approve an out-of-home placement when the conflict between parent and child is so severe the family cannot remain intact. Placement may occur with supervision from Juvenile Court with:

- A relative
- An appropriate friend or neighbor
- DCFS

The legal parent/guardian may be financially responsible for the cost of the placement.

Juvenile Court will order certain conditions the child and parent must comply with including attending classes, counseling, and other measures to reunite the family.