

RCW 13.04.011 Definitions. For purposes of this title:

(1) "Adjudication" has the same meaning as "conviction" in RCW 9.94A.030, but only for the purposes of sentencing under chapter 9.94A RCW;

(2) "Court" when used without further qualification means the juvenile court judge(s) or commissioner(s);

(3) "Custodian" means that person who has the legal right to custody of the child;

(4) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and families;

(5) Except as specifically provided in RCW 13.40.020 and chapters 13.24 and 13.34 RCW, "juvenile," "youth," and "child" mean any individual who is under the chronological age of eighteen years;

(6) "Juvenile offender" and "juvenile offense" have the meaning ascribed in RCW 13.40.020;

(7) "Parent" or "parents," except as used in chapter 13.34 RCW, means that parent or parents who have the right of legal custody of the child. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 601; 2017 c 276 s 1; 2011 c 330 s 2; 2010 c 150 s 4; 1997 c 338 s 6; 1992 c 205 s 119; 1979 c 155 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 291 s 2.]

Reviser's note: The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 ss 601-631, 701-728, and 804: "Sections 601 through 631, 701 through 728, and 804 of this act take effect July 1, 2019." [2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 826.]

Conflict with federal requirements—2017 3rd sp.s. c 6: See RCW 43.216.908.

Intent—2013 c 39; 2011 c 330: "The Washington state legislature has consistently provided national leadership on safe housing and support to foster youth transitioning out of foster care. Since 2006, the legislature has addressed the needs of foster youth aging out of care with medicaid to twenty-one (2007), foster care to twenty-one (2006), the independent youth housing program (2007), and Washington's alignment with the federal fostering connections act (2009). As a result of this national leadership to provide safe and basic housing to youth aging out of foster care, the programs have demonstrated the significant cost-benefit to providing safe housing to our youth exiting foster care.

The United States congress passed the fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008 in order to give states another financial tool to continue to provide foster care services to dependent youth who turn eighteen years old while in foster care. However, substantially declining revenues have resulted in markedly decreased funds for states to use to meet the federal requirements necessary to help these youth. Current fiscal realities require that the scope of programs must be narrowed.

The Washington state legislature intends to serve, within the resources available, the maximum number of foster youth who are legally dependent on the state and who reach the age of eighteen while still in foster care. The legislature intends to provide these youth continued foster care services to support basic and healthy transition into adulthood. The legislature recognizes the extremely poor outcomes of unsupported foster youth aging out of the foster care system and is

committed to ensuring that those foster youth who engage in positive, age-appropriate activities receive support. It is the intent of the legislature to fully engage in the fostering connections act by providing support, including extended court supervision to foster youth pursuing a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 to age twenty-one with the goal of increasing support to all children up to age twenty-one who are eligible under the federal fostering connections to success act as resources become available." [2013 c 39 s 1; 2011 c 330 s 1.]

Finding—Evaluation—Report—1997 c 338: See note following RCW 13.40.0357.

Severability—Effective dates—1997 c 338: See notes following RCW 5.60.060.

Part headings not law—Severability—1992 c 205: See notes following RCW 13.40.010.

Effective date—1979 c 155: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 29, 1979]." [1979 c 155 s 89.]

Severability—1979 c 155: "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." [1979 c 155 s 88.]

Effective dates—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 291: See notes following RCW 13.04.005.