

Child Abuse Questionnaire

1. Since Washington State does not have laws titled "Child Abuse" or "Child Neglect," which laws handle those types of situations?
2. Besides children, do the Criminal Mistreatment and Abandonment crimes cover any victims other than children?
3. What is the method of risking/causing harm in Criminal Mistreatment and how is that different from the Abandonment crimes?
4. RCW 9A.42.010 defines the word "Abandon." How long does the victim have to be left alone to be abandoned? Is there a certain amount of time that must elapse to qualify as "abandonment?"
5. When looking through the Criminal Mistreatment laws and the Abandonment laws, is there a pattern? Does the law treat risking harm differently than actually causing harm? If risk is different than cause, which is considered more severe (punished more severely)?
6. For the Criminal Mistreatment laws and the Abandonment laws, does the suspect need to have a certain relationship or connection to the victim, or can the suspect be just anybody?
7. Are the Criminal Mistreatment laws, the Abandonment laws, and the Assault of a Child laws appropriate if the victim dies?
8. In order to even consider using the Assault of Child statutes, what must the suspect and victim ages be?
9. What if a 17 year-old repeatedly burns an 8 year-old with a curling iron over the course of several weeks? Can you use the Assault of Child laws?
10. Assault of a Child 3rd Degree has wording similar to a portion of another crime we have already studied. Which crime?
11. To use Assault of Child 2nd or 1st Degrees, the assault must either be severe enough that it would have been an Assault 2nd or 1st degree anyway, or it must have what element?
12. Is Custodial Assault the best choice when the suspect is the parent or has custody of the victim?