

21.0 RUNAWAY REPORTING

Runaway reports will be handled as any other priority 3 calls. Officers will have to personally make personal contact with the complainant reporting a runaway. In addition to completing a runaway report, a statement that is signed by the complainant must accompany the report.

Officers should obtain a recent photograph from the parents/complainants or if one is not immediately available, they will be encouraged to bring a recent photograph by the station to be added to the runaway report.

In 1995 the Washington State Legislature enacted a bill governing at-risk youth this bill was called the "**Becca Bill.**" In 1996 this Bill was amended is referred to as the "**Becca Too Bill.**" This bill went into effect June 6, 1996. A protocol has been developed in cooperation with the Snohomish County Becca Bill Task Force, Social Services and Law Enforcement agencies.

This protocol lays out the procedures for law enforcement to follow to access services of DSHS, Division of Children and Family Services, and the secure and semi-secure Crises Residential beds in Snohomish County.

(Semi-secure facilities in Snohomish County are any of the Cedar House Facilities. As of April 2000 there will be a secure facility for Snohomish County Runaways, located at Denny Juvenile Justice Center)

21.01 LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Law Enforcement shall take a child into custody whenever (RCW 13.32A.050):

(a) The child is a runaway from home or official child placement.

(b) If there is reason to believe, based upon the totality of the circumstances that the juvenile would be in danger if not taken into custody. In such case the officer shall report the circumstance and custody to the DSHS. The child is in danger

(c) A juvenile court has determined that the juvenile has violated a placement order or has issued a court order to take custody of a juvenile. The child has run away from placement

Pursuant to a court order (RCW 13.32A.050)

21.02 RUNAWAY PROCEDURE

If the child is a runaway from home, or is in danger, the law enforcement officer should first attempt to contact the parent and do the following:

*updated & uploaded
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Inform the child why he/she is in custody;

Take the child home. *If the parent is not home, take the child to the parent's place of employment.*

Release the child to the parent and give the following information:

Inform the parent why the child was in custody

Inform the child and the parent about available community services.

If the parents request, the officer shall take the child to one of the following places if in the officer's belief the place is in reasonable distance of the parent's home:

To the home of an adult extended family member (18 years of age or older)

To a responsible adult

To a Crises Residential Center

To local Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) office, or Emergency Response Unit or, to a licensed youth shelter (In Snohomish County the licensed youth shelter is: **Cocoon House**)

Inform the child and person receiving the child about available community services. If a parent cannot be contacted, if the child is afraid to return home, or if transporting the child home or to the parent's work place is not within reasonable distance the officer should contact the Snohomish County DCFS office, during conventional business hours or the DCFS Emergency Response Unit during non-conventional hours. If it is more convenient the officer has the option of contacting Cedar House, (the semi-secure Crises Residential Center in Snohomish County).

The Becca Bill gives the officer the option to contact the local Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) office or the Crises Residential Center (CRC). It is advisable for the officer to contact the local DCFS office first to arrange for services and possible placement of the youth. Attached is a list of local contact phone numbers and addresses.

Local offices of:

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)

840 N. Broadway, Bldg. A, Suite 340

Everett, WA 98201

Phone No. **425-339-4768**

Toll Free: 1-800-927-4665

Fax No. 425-339-1945

DCFS

Emergency Response Unit

(For non-conventional business Hrs.)

Everett DCFS Office

840 N. Broadway, Bldg. A

Everett WA 98201

Phone No. **425-339-3900**

Fax No. 425-339-1945

**Snohomish County Semi-Secure
CRC (Crises Residential Center)**
2924 Cedar Street
Everett, WA 98201
Phone No. **425-258-4235**
Fax No. 425-259-9335

**Snohomish County Licensed
Youth Shelter (Cocoon House)**
2726 Cedar St.
Everett, WA 98201
Phone No. **425-259-6042**

21.03 RUNAWAY FROM PLACEMENT

If the child is a runaway from a placement facility the officer will do the following:

Inform the child why he/she is in custody.

Determine what supervising agency has custody of the child and make arrangements with that agency to pick up the child.

If the supervising agency is DCFS, the officer shall do the following:

During conventional business hours, contact the local DCFS office to make arrangements to return the child to DCFS.

During non-conventional business hours (after 5:00 PM until 8:00 AM and during weekends and holidays, the officer would contact the DCFS Emergency Response Unit. Phone No. 425-339-3900.

21.04 RUNAWAY WARRANT ARREST

If a child is in custody pursuant to an arrest warrant being issued by the court the officer will take the child to Denny Youth Center.

Endangered and runaway juveniles, except when in custody for separate criminal offenses, are status offenders. Status offenders may not be held in a locked environment or come into contact with adults in custody in the station.

21.05 RUNAWAY REPORTS

If a runaway from home, or child in danger is taken to CRC or the local DCFS office, the officer's report must be provided to CRC or the local DCFS office within 24 hours. The report must detail the reasons the officer took the child into custody.

If abuse or neglect is suspected, the officer's report shall be made immediately to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) per RCW 13.32A.050.

21.06 RUNAWAY HARBORING

If an officer has reasonable suspicion that a runaway is being harbored in violation of **RCW 13.32A.080**, the officer may take the child into custody and follow the procedures as outlined in "Runaway from Placement."

21.07 RUNAWAY LIABILITY

- Civil and criminal immunity is granted to an officer acting in good faith in:
- Failing to take a child into custody
- Taking a child into custody
- Taking a child to a CRC
- Releasing a child to a person at the request of a parent (RCW 13.32A.070)

A "Child Custody Transfer" form must be completed whenever law enforcement transfers custody of a child to another agency. The DSHS Social Worker will have copies of this report for law enforcement to sign off on.

21.08 CLEARING REPORTS

If an officer is detailed to take a report in which a reported runaway has returned home, or has been located, the officer must correctly clear the report by one of the following methods;

If the returning juvenile was reported as an Everett Runaway, then the officer must use the original Everett case number.

If the juvenile was picked up and is a reported runaway from a jurisdiction other than the City of Everett, a new case number must be used.