



Youth at Risk to Run

Resource Information

What you can do

Walk alongside your youth, providing guidance, as they become more independent.

Why youth run

- Want to see friends, partner or family
- To take drugs or drink alcohol
- Do not want to be in care
- No connection to caregiver or program
- Fear of connecting with others
- Lack of problem-solving skills

What you should do

- Listen
- Provide a non-judgmental space
- Discuss why they want to run
- Help the youth identify realistic alternatives
- Express your concerns
- Emphasize the need for them to be safe
- Look at other placement options
- Empower the youth to make decisions
- Determine whether a behavior support would help
- Complete a Youth Run Prevention Plan

What to provide youth before they run or if they contact you after they have run

Local phone numbers for:

- Crisis Residential Centers
- Walk-in Centers
- Hope Programs
- Shelters
- Washington State's Central Intake Hotline: (1-866-363-4276)

Children of the Night (1-800-551-1300):

- Provides 24/7 crisis intervention services
- Message relay
- Conference calls
- Free travel arrangements home or to shelters
- Translation services
- Other online resources at www.childrenofthenight.org

National Runaway Safeline (1-800-RUNAWAY):

- Provides 24/7 assistance to children between the ages of 11-17
- Judgement-free support
- Help talking with adults
- Transportation home or to a safe place
- Provides support via text to 66008
- Other online resources at www.1800runaway.org

National Safe Place:

- Youth in crisis needing immediate assistance
 - text the word SAFE and the current location (address, city, state) to 44357
 - Will receive a message with the closest Safe Place location
 - Other online resources at <http://nationalsafeplace.org>

Washington Recovery Help Line (1-866-789-1511):

- 24/7 help for Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Teen Link Help Line (1-866-833-6546) daily from 6-10 p.m.
 - Confidential
 - Anonymous
 - Non-judgmental

For more information, visit:

www.dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

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