

When a Youth Runs and Returns

Prevention Tips for Caregivers

What you can do

Engage, encourage, support and listen to the youth in what *they* want for their future and help them get there. You are on a team and they are your star player.

Caregivers must follow procedures outlined in Washington Administrative Code 110-14-1425

This WAC explains:

- When to report children missing from care
- Who you contact:
 - Assigned case worker
 - Local law enforcement
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): 1-800-843-5678
 - What information to provide when filing a report

Youth on the run

Youth typically run to something or away from something:

- Friends
 - Do you know their friends?
 - What is their contact information?
 - Where do they like to hang out?
 - What activities do they like to do?
- Family
 - Who are they connected with?
 - Do they talk about specific people?
 - Who do they consider to be family?

If the youth contacts you:

- Tell them you are concerned
- Listen without judgement
- Encourage them to return
- Ask them where they are:
 - Are they OK?
 - Safe?
- Provide them with resource information

Provide all information to case worker

What to do when a youth returns from a run

- Engage the youth
- Make them feel welcome
- Listen to what they say
- Tell them that you were worried
- Let them know you care about them
- Encourage them to talk about why they ran
- Think about solutions to prevent further runs

Some questions to ask during your conversation:

- Are you OK?
- Do you need anything?
 - Support?
 - Services?
 - Medical attention?
- What do you need right now to feel safe?
- Who should I contact to let them know you are safe?
- Is there anything I can do to make it easier to stay?
- Was there anything that would have changed your mind?
- What did you hope would happen when you left?
- Did you have a plan of how to take care of yourself?
- Did it work out? This can help lead to:
 - Where did they go?
 - What did they do?
 - Who did they contact?
 - What happened to them while on the run?
- What made you decide to return?
- What are some things you want to work on?
- What do you want to see happen in the next three months?
- Where do you see yourself in a year?
 - What do we need to work on to get you there?

For more information, visit:

www.dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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