

A Legal Rights Guide For Trans And Gender Non-Conforming Youth In Washington



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Introduction

Across the country, laws protecting LGBTQIA+ individuals are being challenged. While we cannot undo the pain this causes, we offer you a starting point—a booklet of your basic rights—as a first step towards taking your identity into your own hands.

This booklet is a guide to legal rights and protections for transgender and gender non-conforming youth under the age of 18 in Washington State. It is the work of the Washington Leadership Institute’s Class of 2023, which is made up of lawyers across Washington State with diverse legal backgrounds from corporate law, law firms, healthcare law, and the criminal justice system. Our goal was to create an accessible booklet that answers basic questions you may have about your relationship with your school, employers, doctors, landlords, and the public. Although this guide is not individualized legal advice, we hope it makes navigating the legal system more accessible.

You may be reading this because you have straightforward questions about how to change your pronouns at school (page 5) or how old you need to be to access gender-affirming medical care (page 20). Or you may be facing far more daunting challenges—such as threats of violence (page 13) or being kicked out of your home (page

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30). Either way, we've got you covered. Inside you will find answers to questions about your identity and privacy, discrimination, harassment, and bullying, healthcare rights, guardianships, and your housing rights. We also included a frank discussion about your right to self-defense and how to interact with the police (page 38). Finally, you will find a list of partner organizations that aid and resources to transgender and gender non-conforming youth in our state. We hope you will read this, become empowered through knowing your basic rights, and get connected with needed resources and organizations (page 44).



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Privacy & Identity

Sharing information about your gender identity—including a new name and pronoun—can be a daunting process, especially at first. Some people are more private than others, some share more freely. While you are entitled to privacy of your gender identity and related matters, the extent of such privacy rights may depend on your school or employer’s policies and practices. Beyond your legal rights, your privacy may also depend on how your friends and family choose to safeguard the information you make available to them. Below are a few tips on your rights to keep your information private and how you can change your name, gender marker, and pronouns in different areas of your life.

School



How do I change my name, gender marker, and pronouns at school?

In Washington State public schools, students have the right to be addressed by their requested name, pronoun, and gender marker. This means you can make a request to your school directly with or without involving your parents. Changing your name legally is not necessary to make this request, though official transcripts will continue to

use your dead name until you are able to legally change your name.

Can my school share information about my gender identity with staff, parents, and fellow students?

Information such as your gender identity, legal name, or gender assigned at birth cannot be disclosed to parents, school staff, or any other individuals, unless your school is legally required to do so or unless you authorize such disclosure. You should review your public school district's policies that describe the handling of gender identity information to understand your school's practices. If you informally disclose your gender identity to a school official, you may also let them know your confidentiality and privacy expectations.

Do parents have access to school records? What is included as part of such records?

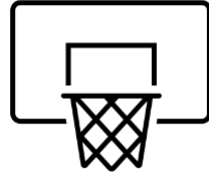
Yes. Generally, your parents have a right to access your official school records, which includes information such as your transcripts, course details, health records, and disciplinary files. However, depending on your school, your school may categorize your information as official and non-official educational records to protect your privacy. The non-official records may include things like your chosen name, gender identity,

and similar other information and may not need to be shared with your parents.

What about the use of bathrooms and locker rooms?

Washington public school students are able to use the bathroom and locker room that most closely aligns with their gender identity. You can also ask for accommodations from the school to provide a different space with more privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms if you feel uncomfortable.

Can I participate on the school sports team that corresponds to my gender?



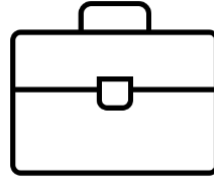
In public schools you are eligible to participate on the sports team or in the physical education class that most closely aligns with your gender identity.

I go to a private school; do I have the same rights?

Students enrolled in some private schools do not always have the same rights as students attending public schools. If you are attending a private school, ask about your school's protocol for name, gender marker, and pronoun changes and talk to a trusted adult.

Work

How do I change my name, gender marker, and pronouns at work?



Your employer cannot change your legal name on legal documents, like tax forms and your employee file, without a legal name change. However, most employers should use your chosen name, gender marker, and pronoun in all non-legal communications, like emails, name tags, and in conversation. Continuous misgendering can be considered workplace harassment under state and federal law. See the Harassment and Discrimination Section of this booklet for more information.

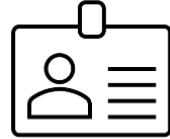
What privacy rights do I have at work?

You are entitled to privacy in your workplace. The anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws entitle you to maintain the privacy of your gender identity and expression at the workplace. This means any information you provide to your employer as part of your job application or during the course of employment cannot be used against you or further disclosed without your consent. Under Washington State law, you also have a right to inspect all personnel files kept by your employer about you and request for

correction of any inaccuracies in such information.

General

Can I legally change my name?



Yes. A legal name change requires a court order through a petition for name change. You will need a court order to change your name on any legal document, including your birth certificate or ID. If you are under 18 and have not been legally emancipated (see Guardianship section of this booklet), a parent or legal guardian needs to petition for you. If you are interested in filing a petition for name change through your parent/guardian or once you turn 18, contact one of the legal service providers listed in the Resource section of this booklet. For name changes associated with gender expression or identity, the petition may be filed in any superior court in Washington State. The records of petitions filed in superior court are sealed and not accessible to the public.

If you are in dependency proceedings in state juvenile court or foster care, speak to your social worker or advocate about changing your name.

Legal emancipation from your parents is a process available to you if you are 16 or 17 years old. In order to emancipate you must prove to a

court that you are capable of supporting and caring for yourself. If you are legally emancipated, you are treated by the court as an adult and do not need any parental involvement in the name change process.

Can I change my gender marker on my birth certificate or Washington ID/License?

Washington recognizes three gender markers, “male”, “female”, and “X” on official documents like birth certificates, IDs, and driver licenses. Changing the gender marker on a Washington birth certificate requires consent by a parent or guardian and a certification by a healthcare professional if you are under 18.

Fortunately, changing your gender marker on a Washington ID or driver license is an easy process and does not require parental consent or certification from a healthcare professional. Visit a Department of Licensing Office, bring your current license, ID, or learner’s permit, and a filled out “Change of Gender Designation Request” available at www.dol.wa.gov/forms/vitallinks/?form=520043. For your first ID, learner’s permit, or driver license, you can select whichever marker best fits your identity.

Are my medical records and health information private?

Generally your parents may have access to your medical records and health information, unless you are a “Mature Minor” or otherwise able to consent to your own healthcare. See chart on Page 21 for times when minors can make their own healthcare decisions under Washington Law.

What about information such as any photos or search history on my personal phone? Who can access such information other than me?

You are entitled to privacy of such information. However, if you share a device with someone and/or if your parents control or administer your phone, they may be able to access your information. Additionally, the phone provider, telephone carrier, and any apps on your phone may have access to, use,



and further disclose your information. But, these carriers or apps cannot use your information in a manner that threatens your privacy. In order to make sure you are comfortable with the way your phone or apps treat your information, you should take a look at your privacy settings and only approve or engage in actions that feel safe to you.

Starting March 31, 2024, information about gender-affirming care, including information

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researching such services, cannot be collected or shared without your consent unless such information is required for providing the service. You will also have rights to request access and deletion of your information.

Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying

School

Are there laws that protect me in school from discrimination, harassment, and bullying due to my gender identity or expression in Washington State?



Yes, public schools in Washington State cannot discriminate against you based on your gender identity and gender expression. You have the right to be treated consistently with your gender identity in public school. You also have the right to be free from harassment and bullying based on these protected characteristics. Further, each public school district is required to have “gender-inclusive schools policy and procedure” and a “gender-inclusive schools coordinator” who is the primary contact about these procedures. Contact your school to connect with your coordinator.

Do these laws apply to my school?

Protections under state laws apply to all K-12 public schools in Washington State, including public charter schools. These protections do not apply to private schools, but it is unsettled whether protections under federal law apply to

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private schools that receive federal funding. If you attend private school, ask about your school's protocol.

What are examples of my right to be treated consistently with my gender identity and to express my gender at school?

- To be addressed by your requested name, pronoun, and gender designation, including in your school records. A legal name or gender designation change is not required.
- To express your gender through clothing and hairstyle, within the constraints of the school's dress code. School dress codes should be gender-neutral and not restrict a student's clothing choices on the basis of gender. With that said, schools may censor students who wear clothing that demeans or degrades other groups or that causes disruption to the learning environment.
- To use the restroom and locker room that most closely aligns with your gender identity.
- To participate in physical education and athletics that correspond to your gender identity.

What are examples of prohibited harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on gender identity or expression in school?

Any words or actions, whether online, written, or spoken, that are based on one's gender identity or expression and create a hostile environment. A hostile environment is created when the conduct is so severe, pervasive, or persistent that it limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program. Specific examples include physically harming a student or damaging the student's property because of a student's gender identity and creating intimidating or threatening educational environments for students who are transgender or gender non-conforming.

Can I file a complaint against a student or teacher?

Yes, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, advocates) can file a complaint that alleges discrimination or harassment in a Washington public school. Your school's civil rights or gender-inclusive schools compliance coordinator can best handle informal (verbal) complaints and help you work toward a solution. You may also file a formal (written) complaint and are not required to resolve your concern informally before filing a formal



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complaint. You can submit a formal complaint to the district superintendent, charter school administrator, or civil rights coordinator. Specific instructions are here: www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights/complaints-and-concerns-about-discrimination. Once the school receives your complaint, it must conduct an investigation and respond to you within 30 calendar days.

If you feel emotionally or physically unsafe because of harassment or bullying, you or your parents can also request a meeting with your school to develop a Safety Plan.

Work

Are there laws that protect me at work from discrimination, harassment, and bullying due to my gender identity or expression in Washington State?



Yes, transgender and gender non-conforming youth have the right to be free from discrimination and harassment at work under both federal and state law. The state law is called “Washington Law Against Discrimination” (WLAD), and it specifically prohibits discrimination because of “gender expression or identity,” including actual or perceived identity.

Do these legal protections apply to my work?

It depends on the number of employees. State protections apply to a business of 8 or more employees; and federal protections apply to a business with 15 or more employees.

There are some situations where employers with even one employee can be liable for discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. For example, local civil rights ordinances such as Seattle's can protect an employee even if these the company's only employee. It's important to take notes about what's happening, tell a supervisor or the business owner, and contact a legal organization or a trusted adult for assistance.

What are examples of unlawful workplace discrimination?

Hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, benefits, and any other term or condition of employment due to gender identity or expression.

What are examples of unlawful workplace harassment?

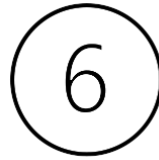
Under federal law, workplace harassment can include offensive or derogatory remarks about your transgender status or gender transition; intentionally and repeatedly using the wrong name and/or pronouns to refer to a transgender

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employee; or any behaviors that are so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile work environment.

Can I file a complaint of discrimination or harassment against my employer?

Yes, you may file a formal complaint (English or Spanish) with the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC), which is charged with enforcing the state anti-discrimination laws. You must file a formal complaint within six months from the date of the alleged violation. To learn more about this process, you can call WSHRC at 1-800-233-3247 or visit www.hum.wa.gov. You may also file a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). To learn more about this process, contact the EEOC field office in Seattle by calling 1-800-669-4000. Some local governments also have civil rights offices that can assist you in filing a complaint. For a directory of local civil rights offices visit: www.usccr.gov/files/pubs/crd/stateloc/wa.htm.



Hate Crimes

Are there laws that protect me at home or elsewhere from harassment and violence due to my gender identity or expression in Washington State?

Yes, it is a hate crime to use physical violence or threats of violence motivated by gender identity or expression in Washington State, regardless if the use of physical violence or threats of violence happen at your home, school, or workplace.

How do I report a hate crime?

If you are actively being harmed or are in danger, call the police. If you think you have experienced a hate crime, but are no longer in direct danger, it's still important to report what happened. First, talk to a trusted adult about what happened to you, so that you can get any medical or mental health support you need. Then, you can report to your local police department, which may cause the police to investigate further, and in some cases may cause the person to be charged with a crime. Regardless of whether you choose to report the hate crime, it is important to get support.

Northwest Network can also assist you with making decisions about how and whether to report. To contact them call 206-568-7777.



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Health Care

What is gender-affirming care?



Gender-affirming care is supportive health care for transgender and gender non-conforming people that supports wellness. It can include mental health and medical services, including surgery and hormone therapy. You can talk with a health care provider who knows about gender-affirming care to see what is best for you.

What gender-affirming medical care is available to me?

There are many options for gender-affirming health care. In most cases, you must be 18 to make your own health care choices. But there are important exceptions to this rule. This chart shows how old you can be to get services without your parent's consent.

Health Care Services	Any Age	13+	14+	18+
Birth Control Services	X			
Abortion Services	X			
Prenatal Care Services	X			
Emergency Medical Services (If No Adult Is Available)	X			
Gender Identity Consultation		X		
Mental Health Treatment (Inpatient or Outpatient)		X		
Substance Use Disorder Treatment (Inpatient or Outpatient)		X		
Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing and Treatment			X	
Puberty Blockers				X
Hormone Therapy (Testosterone or Estrogen)				X
Surgery*				X

You can make your own health care choices if:

- Your health care provider determines you are a “mature minor” under the law. This means a health care provider must find that you are able to understand the health care service and/or treatment and are mature

enough to make your own health care decisions.

- You are an unaccompanied homeless minor not in the custody of a parent/guardian. This means you are not staying with a parent/guardian and you do not have a regular place to sleep at night. Examples include: staying with a friend because you don't feel safe at home, staying with relatives without your parents' support, or being undocumented and staying with someone who is not your parent. However, if you are not a "mature minor," you cannot consent to puberty blockers, hormone therapy, or surgery without a parent or guardian's consent.
- You are an emancipated minor. This means a court has declared that you are an adult before the age of 18.

*Common examples of gender-affirming surgical procedures include:

- "Top surgery" to create breasts or male-typical chest shape
- "Bottom surgery" on genitals or reproductive organs (usually for adults)
- Tracheal shaves (reducing appearance of Adam's apple)
- Hair removal procedures
- Gender-affirming facial procedures

You may be required to undergo hormone therapy for at least 12 months before surgery.

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How can I pay for my gender-affirming care?

Different health insurance plans pay for different health care services. Always ask your health insurer what gender-affirming services they cover before starting a service.

If you do not have health insurance, you may qualify for public health insurance through Apple Health. Apple Health covers the following healthcare services:

- Primary care
- Counseling
- Hormone therapy
- Puberty blockers
- Hair removal
- Intersex reparative surgery

Minor Guardianship

What is a Minor Guardianship?

A guardian is a person appointed by the court to make decisions for a child on things that a parent would generally do. This means that your guardian can make decisions on your support, care, education, health, safety, and welfare. It also means that you would live with the guardian.



A guardianship is a process to help you live in the most loving and supportive environment as you continue to grow towards adulthood. It does not end the relationship you have with your parents but may help you find an environment to feel safer and more protected.

A guardianship may be filed by anyone interested in the welfare of a child, including the child themselves. You can ask for anyone to be appointed as a guardian if they are a person over 21 years old, who has not been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty, neglect, use of physical force or any other crime relevant to the functions of a guardian, and lives in Washington State.

When can the Court appoint a guardian?

When it is in the best interest of the child and one of the following is true:

- Each parent of the minor agrees after being told about what a guardianship means;
- All parental rights have been terminated; or
- There is clear and convincing evidence that no parent of the minor is willing or able to exercise parenting functions as defined in RCW 26.09.004.

What do I need to file a Minor Guardianship petition?



You need the following documents: the petition, notice and summons for the hearing, and declaration explaining why you need a guardian. You can find these documents at your county courthouse from the clerk of the court, or, in the alternative, you can print these documents from www.courts.wa.gov/forms. The court will also need background information on your potential guardian i.e., any criminal history or DCYF involvement. There are separate documents to file so the court can obtain that information.

Once you have completed all the documents, you can file your case with the clerk of the Superior Court. Some counties can file documents online, or you can file in person. Once you file, the clerk

will give you a hearing date, time, and location/courtroom. The clerk will stamp your documents with the date and time of filing and give you what is called a “cause number.” You will need to write this number on all your documents that you file with the court. It is how the court makes sure your documents are kept with your case.

How do I notify my parents?

If you filed the petition, you must have another person who is 18 years old deliver the documents to your parents, or anyone else that has custody of you. This person must give them the petition, declaration and notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. This is called personal service. The court can help you arrange for someone to serve the right people. Anyone else that the court decides needs to have these documents can be served by mail, fax, or email. If someone is filing a guardianship petition for you, you will also need to be handed the petition, declaration and notice of the hearing date, time, and location. Once service has been made, you will need to let the court know you have served these people.

What is Emergency Minor Guardianship?

After you file the petition for guardianship or someone files one on your behalf, the court can also appoint an emergency guardian if:

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- Appointment of an emergency guardian is likely to prevent substantial harm to the minors health, safety, or welfare;
- No other person appears to have authority, ability and the willingness to act to prevent substantial harm to the minor's health, safety, or welfare.

The appointment of an emergency guardian may only last for 60 days and the emergency guardian may only exercise decision making ability over you as listed in the court order. The court will only continue or extend the emergency guardianship for more than 60 days if the court finds that the emergency guardianship is necessary to protect the best interests of the child.

The petition is filed, now what?

The court will set a review hearing usually about 60 days after the petition has been filed. At the hearing, you have the right to be present and participate in the hearing. The person you want to be your guardian and your parents must also attend.

At the hearing, the court will decide if it is ready to enter the guardianship or if the court needs additional help in making that decision. If the court decides it needs additional information, the court may do the following:

- Appoint a court visitor, who will create a report after speaking with you, attempt to

locate your parents if they cannot be found, investigate any additional issues at the request of the court, or determine if your parents consent to the guardianship;

- Appoint an attorney for you or your parents;
- Appoint a guardian ad litem, who is a person that will represent an individual's interests if the court determines that that individual's interest would be not adequately represented.

When does the Minor Guardianship become final?



When the court makes a ruling. The court can either grant the guardianship, dismiss the petition, or decide what else would be in the best interest of you, the child. If the

court appoints a guardian/grants the guardianship petition, that guardian would now have all the legal rights your parents had and must care and make decisions for you just like your parents would do. The court will also require that one of or both of your parents continue to cover your health insurance if they have health insurance through work or another organization. The court must also include what rights your parents still have regarding your health care, or education. The court will include this information in its final order on the guardianship.

The appointment of a guardian does not mean that you cannot see your parents or have a relationship with your parents, unless the court decides it is harmful for you. The intent of the guardianship is to allow you a protective environment so you can exercise your rights for your own health and safety.

When does the guardianship end?

Upon your 18th birthday, the guardianship will automatically terminate, which will also be included in the court's order. If at any point, you believe there is a reason to cancel or change the guardianship, you may ask the court by petition to terminate, modify or remove the guardianship. You may also ask the court to appoint another guardian if that is in the best interest for you.

Housing



If I am kicked out of my home because I am transgender or gender non-conforming, where can I go?

Several resources are available to help you navigate what to do next. These resources range from crisis organizations that you can call for immediate help and guidance to housing programs that provide you with safe, inclusive housing and services designed to connect you with a community who understands and supports you. Please see the Resources section for more information on shelters and organizations who welcome minors of all identities behind their doors.

Typically, the most immediate housing options include:

- **Family or Friends**: reaching out to trusted family and friends for housing can be a safe option for some.
- **Youth Shelters**: shelters provide temporary housing for individuals and/or families. Shelters provide residents with safety and protection from exposure on the streets. Depending on the specific shelter, you can either walk-in or make an appointment to go through the intake process to obtain temporary housing.

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- **Transitional Housing:** supportive housing programs are temporary and designed to be an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing. These housing programs often have eligibility requirements and can offer structure, supervision, support, and the development of life skills. Length of stay can vary significantly from 90 days to a year.

A shelter is likely your best option to get off the streets and into housing. Shelters vary in several ways. Here are some differences:

- **Duration:** shelters are designed to be temporary with a goal of getting you into safe, permanent housing. But the length of stay varies, ranging from a few weeks to several months depending on the shelter's licensing category and other factors.
- **Age:** While some shelters are available for minor-aged children 12 to 17 years old, others are only available to those over 18.
- **Gender:** shelters may either welcome all genders or separate individuals based on their gender (e.g., women only). When looking for safe and inclusive housing, it is important that any shelter you seek out provides you with housing based on your gender identity rather than your assigned sex at birth.
- **Hours:** some are open 24 hours and participate in programs and activities. Others only provide overnight housing and

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are closed during the daytime but open in the evenings.

- **Services:** shelters offer a range of services, which can include access to showers and hygiene products, meals, clothing, school supplies, counseling, support groups, education opportunities, activities, support from case management workers, and assistance with permanent and/or transitional housing.

Under Washington State law, any person, unlicensed youth shelter, or homeless youth program that provides you shelter without permission from your parent or guardian must contact your parent/guardian, law enforcement or the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) within 72 hours of the youth accessing shelter, but preferably within 24 hours, unless there are compelling reasons not to notify the parent.

The “compelling reasons” that a shelter will not contact your parent including: there are circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or legal guardian will subject the minor to abuse or neglect, or if you are seeking or receiving a “protected health care services” (this includes gender affirming treatment or reproductive health care services). If one of those compelling reasons exists, the shelter will contact DCYF instead of your parent.

DCYF must then contact your parent or guardian and offer services designed to resolve family conflict and accomplish reunification. DCYF must also offer to make referrals on your behalf for behavioral health services.

Generally, a licensed overnight youth shelter must obtain a parent's consent for a minor to remain in a shelter beyond 72 hours of the youth accessing the program.

Any minor can provide their own authorization to stay in a licensed overnight youth shelter under certain circumstances, including if the shelter:

- Is unable to make contact with a parent despite their notification efforts required by law; or
- Makes contact with a parent, but the parent does not request that the child return home even if the parent does not provide consent for the minor to remain in the shelter.

The length of time a youth can stay in shelter under these circumstances will vary depending on the type of shelter they are accessing.

In any of these circumstances, if a parent/legal guardian requests that a youth return home, unless a court order has been granted that allows the youth to stay out of the home, the shelter must release the youth.

What are the criteria or eligibility requirements for these housing options?

The criteria and eligibility for transgender and gender non-conforming youth housing varies depending on the specific program or resource. However, any program that you apply for, should respect your privacy and you are not obligated to provide more information than is required for you to live in any other area.

While some housing options may not ask for documentation, others might. Some eligibility requirements for housing options may include any of the following:

- your legal name
- your birthdate
- your social security number
- previous address or contact information
- emergency contact information
- legal emancipation documentation
- a co-signer on your application
- employment verification
- school/education verification (if you are still a student)
- or other legally important information.

Many colleges and universities, like the University of Washington (UW), are pushing for more education and understanding for trans-youth housing for those attending their campus. Contact your educational institution to see if they offer

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gender inclusive housing and what the criteria are to live there.

Access to Education

I am homeless. Can I still go to school?

Yes, there is a law called the “McKinney Vento Act” that requires school districts to help students who are experiencing homelessness. If you are a young person, on your own, staying with friends, with a relative, or in a shelter, you can get transportation to keep going to your same school or immediately enroll to change schools. Additional resources such as free meals can also be provided to homeless youth.

How do I access these resources?

Tell the school about your housing situation so they will know to follow the McKinney Vento requirements. If you are not sure who to tell, contact your school district or check the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website for your school’s “McKinney Vento Liaison”: www.k12.wa.us/student-success/equity-education/homeless-education/homeless-education-liaison-contact-list. You can learn more about Washington State’s resources here: www.oeo.wa.gov/en/education-issues/supports-students-experiencing-homelessness

What does housing discrimination look like?

Housing discrimination means treating you differently than other tenants on the basis of your race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, military status, mental or physical disability, marital status, or family status. Examples include a landlord falsely claiming that a previously advertised unit is now unavailable after they find out about your gender identity, or a property manager giving preference on repair requests to "favorite tenants" and neglecting others based on their gender identity.

Where can I file a complaint if I was discriminated against because of my sexual orientation or gender identity?

You can file a complaint before the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC). It must be filed within six months of the alleged discrimination. You can call 1-800-233-3247 to make a report. For more information visit www.hum.wa.gov/file-complaint. Some local governments also have civil rights offices that can assist you in filing a complaint. For a directory of local civil rights offices visit: www.usccr.gov/files/pubs/crd/stateloc/wa.htm.

What information do I need to disclose when filing a complaint?

A report of housing discrimination is completed by calling the number above. Based on the WSHRC Complaint Questionnaire, you might be asked to provide your name, phone number, address, contact information, and the basis of the discrimination. You will also need to provide information about the date of the incident, what happened, where it happened, who discriminated, and other relevant information.

What should I look for when searching for housing that is safe and inclusive for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals?

When looking for housing, ensure that the community has non-discriminatory policies, gender-inclusive facilities, that the staff uses affirming and inclusive language, and that the community provides supportive resources and opportunities for community engagement.

Remember that each person's needs and preferences may vary, so it's essential to prioritize aspects that align with your specific requirements and comfort level. Visiting the housing community, talking to current residents, and engaging in conversations about gender inclusivity with the community management can provide valuable insights to inform your decision.

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Self-Defense



There is no honor to be gained from physical violence. But there are times when a person has no other choice. This is a guide for those situations.

The Basics

The use of force to defend yourself in Washington State is lawful, but only when you reasonably believe you are about to be injured and you use no more force than is necessary to defend yourself.

In a nutshell, defending yourself in a lawful manner is about: (1) what the other person is doing to you (or about to do to you), (2) whether you fear being injured if you do not defend yourself, (3) whether your fear—based on everything you know at the moment in question—is *reasonable*, (4) whether the force you use is no more than necessary, and (5) whether the actions you take in that moment are *reasonable*, given everything you know at the time. We know that is a lot to take in, but we are going to break it down, piece by piece. Let's start with the concept of *reasonableness*.

Reasonable beliefs, reasonable actions

We put the word “reasonable” in italics, because it is one of the most important things to know

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about self-defense cases in Washington. The reason is simple: if a person does not have a “reasonable” belief that they are about to be injured by someone else, and does not act “reasonably” when they defend themselves, then they have not acted in self-defense—**they have committed a crime.**

This concept is probably best explained by using examples. Would it be reasonable for a person to believe that an unarmed man standing six feet away and whistling to himself posed a threat of imminently harming them? Of course not. What if the unarmed man rushed at you with balled up fists? Well, that is a different story—it could be reasonable to believe the man with balled-up fists was about to strike you and cause injury.

Let’s take this a step further and discuss the “reasonable actions” concept. Would it be reasonable to (1) push the man with the balled-up fists to the ground to prevent him from hitting you and then (2) repeatedly kick him while he was on the ground, to make sure he cannot get back up? No. This is likely going too far; while a factfinder (such as a judge or jury) would likely find that a person who pushed the man down and then walked away acted reasonably, a factfinder would likely conclude that a person who did both (1) and (2) used too much force, as the man with the balled-up fists no longer posed a threat when he fell to the ground.

What does “stand your ground” mean?

You see this phrase in the news all the time: “stand your ground.” The news media sometimes misses the boat on what this really means—it is not a blanket license to harm people as soon as you feel the slightest bit threatened. What this phrase means, at least in Washington State, is that you are not required to try running away before defending yourself. Some other states require that people who feel threatened outside of their homes try to flee the area before defending themselves. This is not the law in Washington. A person who has a right to be where they are never has to first attempt to flee before defending themselves. Whether or not someone tried to run away is not something the jury can consider when they decide whether a person had no “reasonably effective alternative” to using force.

What if I believe I’m in danger, but later it turns out that belief was mistaken?

A person is allowed to “act on appearances” when using self-defense. That means that when a person reasonably believes they are facing an imminent threat—based on everything they know in that moment—but turns out to be wrong, they can still assert self-defense.

How does that work? Consider this example: Al walks up to Freddie and cocks his fist back, as if to punch him. Freddie and Al have never gotten

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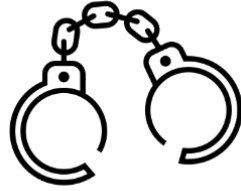
along. Recently, Al sucker-punched Freddie from behind on his way home from school. This is why Freddie believes Al is about to strike him. Freddie puts his guard up, but does not strike. This is fortunate, because it turns out Al was playing a joke on him—inside of his fist was a piece of candy. Instead of hitting Freddie, Al extends his hand and offers the candy, with a laugh. Would Freddie have been within his rights to strike Al before he extended his hand and gave him the candy? Yes. Freddie would have a good faith, reasonable belief that he was in actual danger based on Al’s actions and history of assaulting Freddie. It does not matter that it later turned out that he was mistaken about his belief—he still had the right to defend himself.

What if I was the first person to get physically aggressive?

You cannot provoke a fight with another person and then claim self-defense to avoid liability later on, except in a very narrow set of circumstances. The only time a person who has provoked a fight may claim self-defense is when that person has given up on the fight and let the other person know they do not intend to continue. Under these circumstances, the person who has “withdrawn” may defend themselves if the other party seeks to attack them after they have given up the fight.

What if I get arrested after defending myself?

Stay calm and remember your rights. You have the right to speak to an attorney, you have the right to remain silent, and



you have the right to refuse to give police your permission to search your personal effects (the inside of your bag or your car, for example).

Always speak clearly and respectfully when asserting your rights, especially when requesting an attorney. "I might want an attorney" is not the same as "I want to speak to an attorney." The latter will protect your rights. The former leaves too much open to interpretation.

Do not argue with police about what your rights are. This is a critical mistake: the person who argues with an officer about whether the police have probable cause to arrest them may slip up during the argument and make a comment that is damaging to their case. The person who calmly and respectfully demands an attorney, refuses to answer questions, and declines to consent to any searches has protected their rights in a way that cannot be used against them later on.

What is conflict de-escalation and how could it help me in a confrontation?

Conflict de-escalation is a communication-based strategy to stabilize, slow, or reduce potential violence. Your safety is the highest priority in any situation. If you are not at risk of imminent harm, you may want to consider using these non-violent methods of defusing a tense moment.

- Be purposeful in your actions and reactions. Remain calm and respect a safe, personal space for yourself and others. Demonstrate active listening by providing your full attention and providing audio or visual clues of understanding like nodding or asking questions.
- Practice verbal de-escalation. Tone, volume, rate of speech, and inflection can influence the way a conversation is going. Consider alternative phrasings like “I can see that you are upset...” instead of “Calm down.” Offer support and solutions by asking “I want to help, what can I do?”
- Pay attention to your body language and ask yourself how you are being perceived. If you notice you are standing rigidly and directly in front of someone, try relaxing your posture and adopting a stance next to, not in front of, another. If you tend to express yourself with your hands, consider keeping your hands down, open, and visible at all times.

Resources

Center for Children & Youth (CCYJ) hosts a Resource Map for LGBTQIA+ individuals 25-years-old and under available online at: <https://ccyj.org/our-work/supporting-lgbtq-youth/maps/>

Western Washington

Bellingham - Housing

Northwest Youth Services

Drop-in Center: 2500 E St Bellingham, WA 98225

Whatcom Office: 1020 N State St Bellingham, WA 98225

Skagit Office: 427 N 4th St Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-393-0116 | hello@nwys.org

About: provides short-term emergency housing (up to 90 days) for minors aged 13 – 17 in Whatcom County. Participants receive food and clothing, support in enrolling in school, obtaining employment, and setting up medical appointments. Their Queer Youth Program is dedicated to supporting and advocating for at-risk and homeless LGBTQIA+ youth.

Everett - Housing

East Shelter (Cocoon House)

15302 Plainview Pl, Monroe, WA 98272 | call or text 425-877-5171

About: provides shelter and housing options to homeless young people ages 12 – 17 years old. 21 day stay maximum, meals and basic needs provided. Assistance with family reunification when possible, referrals, access to mental health and substance use support.

Everett - Community Resources

GLOBE Youth

Confidential location | care crisis line: 425-258-4357 | globeyouthleaders@gmail.com

About: seeks to make Snohomish County a safe and nurturing community for GLBTQ youth age 14 – 20 by enhancing the physical, emotional, sexual, and spiritual well-being of youth, providing positive interaction with adult role models, providing community education, and developing resources.

Seattle - Housing

YouthCare

2500 NE 54th St Seattle, WA 98105 | 206-694-4500 | 1-800-495-7802

About: provides short-term shelter for youth aged 12 – 17, engagement centers where young people can come during the day to enjoy a meal

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and connect with services, outreach programs to help meet basic needs, employment programs, and high school diploma and GED programs.

Lambert House

1818 15th Ave Seattle, WA 98102 | 206-322-2515
| www.lamberthouse.org

About: a center for LGBTQIA+ youth (ages 14 – 22) and their allies that encourages empowerment through the development of leadership, social, and life skills.

New Horizons

2709 3rd Ave Seattle, WA | 206-374-0866 |
www.nhmin.org

About: offers 20 beds for emergency youth shelter, 12 beds for transitional shelter, with gender-neutral sleeping areas available, case management, employment training, weekday breakfasts, evening drop-ins, ADA-accessible bathrooms, gender-neutral bathrooms, and Spanish speaking staff.

University District Youth Center (YouthCare)

4516 15th Ave NE Seattle, WA

About: provides daily lunch, material necessities, sanitary services, case manager assistance, legal aid, and mental health and chemical dependency counseling for youth aged 12 – 24.

Youth Haven (Friends of Youth)

206-236-5437

About: emergency shelter and transitional living which serves youth ages 7 – 17 with case management, life skills and education supports, recreational outings and focuses on housing stability and family reunification where possible.

Seattle - Community Resources

American Friends Service Committee

814 NE 40th St Seattle, WA 98105 | 206632-0500

| www.afsc.org

About: their GLBTQ Youth Program supports the empowerment and leadership of young LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies by supporting youth leadership development.

Center for Human Services

17018 15th Ave NE Shoreline, WA 98155 | 206-

362-7282 | www.chs-nw.org

About: provides counseling, education, and support to children and young persons in King and Snohomish Counties.

Lambda Legal

3325 Wiltshire Boulevard, Suite 1300 Los

Angeles, CA 90010 | 213-382-7600 |

www.lambdalegal.org

About: a national organization working towards the full recognition of civil rights of LGBTQIA+ persons through litigation, education, and public policy work.

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Sexuality and Gender Equality (SAGE) Center at Shoreline Teen Center

16554 Fremont Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133 |
206-801-2680 | mhale@shorelinewa.gov

About: a LGBTQIA+ and allies club in the Shoreline Teen Center. Provides drop-in hours to meet new people, hang out with friends, and participate in fun activities like movie nights, rainbow cake baking, button making, and more.

Lifelong AIDS Alliance – Mpowerment Program

1002 E Seneca Seattle, WA 98122 | 206-957-1725 | www.llaa.org

About: focuses on community outreach to LGBTQIA+ young men aged 16 – 22. Offers peer-driven community building, fun social activities, and an engaging atmosphere supporting safe and healthy sexuality.

Metropolitan Community Church

1122 E Pike St, PMB 930 Seattle, WA 98112 |
206-325-2421 | www.mccseattle.org

About: Christian church that services the LGBTQIA+ community. Promotes and practices unconditional inclusivity and celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community.

Orion Center (YouthCare)

1828 Yale Ave Seattle, WA | 206-622-5555 | |
www.youthcare.org

About: offers meals and drop-in services to youth up to age 22 who are homeless or in unstable housing.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

1122 E Pike St Seattle, WA 98122 | 206-325-7724 | info@pflagseattle.org | www.pflagseattle.org/

About: provides peer-to-peer support, publications, toolkits, and other resources for the family members of people who are LGBTQIA+. Chapters in Bellingham, Bellevue, Richland, Everett, Cathlamet, Olympia, Spokane, Skagit, Tacoma, Stanwood-Camano, Vancouver, Whidbey Island, Wenatchee, and Clarkston.

Public Health-Seattle & King County

999 3rd Ave, Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104 | 206-296-4600 | www.metrokc.gov/health

About: provides tools for healthcare providers to ensure that community healthcare environments are welcoming.

Queercore

400 E Pine St #100 Seattle, WA 98122 | 206.860.6969 | info@gaycity.org | www.gaycity.org/queercore/

About: a drop-in center for youth aged 12 – 20 where you can exist as your full self with other LGBTQIA+ young people and play games, watch movies, create art, and just be yourself.

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Queer the Land

www.queertheland.org

About: a collaborative project for queer, transgender, and Two-Spirit Black, indigenous, people of color (QT2BIPOC) and allies. Offers QTBIPOC-led self-defense training.

Seattle Counseling Service (SCS)

1216 Pine St, Suite 300 Seattle, WA 98101 | 206-323-1768 | www.seattlecounseling.org

About: provides chemical dependency services for young people aged 10 – 21 and adults, including alcohol and drug assessments, case management, referrals, individual and group counseling, and chemical dependency outpatient treatment.

Verbena Health

1115 E Pike St Seattle, WA 98122 | 206-323-6540 | www.verbenahealth.org

About: seeks to build vibrant communities for lesbian, bi, and queer women and transgendered individuals of all ages through health advocacy, education, support, and access to care.

Teen Feed

Meal Program: 206-229-0813

Service Links for Youth (SLY):

slycoordinator@teenfeed.org | 206-802-5735

About: offers (1) a meal program that serves hot meals at the University District 7 days a week, and in Auburn once a week, (2) a youth-centered

case management program for youth aged 13 – 25 and assistance in enrolling in healthcare.

The NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian, and Gay Survivors of Abuse

P.O. Box 18436 Seattle, WA 98118 | 206-568-7777 | 206-325-2601 | www.nwnetwork.org

About: provides support to LGBTQIA+ youth aged 13 – 24 around issues of violence and crime.

Trans Families

6523 California Ave SW #360 Seattle, WA 98136 | 1-855-443-6337 | info@transfamilies.org | www.transfamilies.org

About: supports transgender people and their families through various programs, including youth support groups for all ages and a trans youth leadership program.

Friends of Youth

425-869-6490 | 13116 NE 132nd Street Kirkland, WA 98034-2306 | info@friendsofyouth.org | www.friendsofyouth.org

About: provides a wide range of services for youth and young adults including youth engagement (under 18), safe place - a 24 hour crisis hotline (ages 12 – 17), and behavioral health services (ages 4 – 24).

Urban Rest Stop

Downtown: 1924 9th Ave Seattle, WA | 206-332-0110 | www.urbanreststop.org

Ballard: 2014B NW 57th St Seattle, WA | 206-258-3626 | www.urbanreststop.org

About: a clean, safe and welcoming hygiene facility where unsheltered individuals and families of all ages can access running water and utilize restroom, shower, toiletries (toothbrush, razors, shampoo, soap etc.) and laundry services. Provided at no cost to patrons.

Tacoma - Housing

The Loft Youth Shelter (DCYF/The Coffee Oasis)

1424 Tacoma Ave S Tacoma, WA 98402 | 253-328-6127 | tacoma@thecoffeeoasis.com

About: offers under-aged short-term emergency youth shelter (ages 13 – 17) in Tacoma for all genders to live while they work towards sustainable housing and employment. Cannot accept youth registered as sex offenders or with violent or sexual convictions history in prior two years. Maximum stay of 150 days.

Tacoma - Community Resources

Oasis Youth

2215 Pacific Ave Tacoma, WA 98402 | 253-671-2838 | oasisyouthcenter@gmail.com

About: drop-in center for LGBTQIA+ youth (ages 11 – 24) in Tacoma/Pierce County that provides dedicated space, time, and personnel in support of LGBTQIA+ youth.

Rainbow Center

2215 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402 | 253-383-2318

About: serves as a resource hub for the LGBTQIA+ community in South Puget Sound. Offers a lending library, computer and wi-fi access, advocacy services, education materials, and an education program.

The REACH Center

1314 South L St Tacoma, WA 98405 | 253-383-3951 | info@reachtacoma.org

Online intake form:

<https://intakeq.com/new/hkdA1f>

About: has 2 programs (1) the ACT Program provides youth aged 12 – 24 in Pierce County with individualized case management support to achieve housing stability, including LGBTQIA+ community support and resources; (2) H4S is a rapid re-housing program that provides housing navigation, subsidized housing, and case management to unaccompanied youth ages 16 – 24.

Olympia - Housing

Haven House (Community Youth Services)

360-754-1151 | Open for intake 24/7

About: a co-education, crisis residential shelter for youth aged 12 – 17. Provides short-term emergency shelter placements up to 30 days, individual and group counseling, and basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene supplies,

transportation, and assistance with accessing medical and dental services.

Olympia - Community Resources

Independent Living Skills (Community Youth Services)

360-918-7829 | 360-515-6559 |

www.communityyouthservices.org

About: provides basic life skills and support to young people aged 15 – 23 who are or previously were in foster or group care. Provides group activities, one on one case management, and referral to resources.

PFLAG Olympia

Meets at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA (enter on 5th Ave. side) | 360-207-1608 (leave voicemail with phone number) | info@pflag-olympia.org

About: provides support for parents, family, friends, significant others, etc. of LGBTQIA+ people in Olympia.

Pizza Klatch

312 4th Ave. E. Olympia, WA. 98501 | 360-339-7574 | info@pizzaklatch.org |

www.pizzaklatch.org/

About: offers lunchtime support groups with trained facilitators for LGBTQIA+ high school students across 15 high schools throughout Thurston County. Also offers training and workshops.

**Rosie’s Place Engagement Center
(Community Youth Services)**

520 Pear St SE Olympia, WA 98501 | 360-918-7879 | 1-888-698-1816 ext. 186 | www.communityyouthservices.org

About: offers food, snacks, showers, clothing, laundry services, and hygiene supplies as well as crisis intervention, drug/alcohol treatment referrals, and other community referrals from case managers for youth aged 12 – 24.

Stonewall Youth

112 State Ave NE Olympia, WA 98501 | text/call 360-888-4273 | info@stonewallyouth.org

About: an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers LGBTQIA+ youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Activities for youth aged 12 – 21.

Olympic Peninsula - Housing

Gray’s Harbor Youth Shelter

111 E 4th St Aberdeen, WA | 360-589-3259 |

About: an emergency shelter that provides meals, case management services, and referral assistance for up to six youth aged 13 – 17 for up to 90 days. Youth are eligible if not in foster care and must be enrolled in school.

The Coffee Oasis - Bremerton Shelter (DCYF)

822 Burwell St Bremerton, WA 98337 | 360-479-5123

About: a 6 bed DSHS licensed youth shelter that provides LGBTQIA+ youth aged 16 - 20 with short term emergency housing while they work towards sustainable housing and employment. Cannot accept youth with active warrants, registered sex offenders, posing any safety threat, or violent or sexual conviction history in prior three years. Maximum stay 150 days.

Olympic Peninsula - Community Resources

Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP)

Port Townsend: 2120 West Sims Way Port Townsend, WA 98368 | 360-385-2571

Port Angeles: 228 W 1st Street, Suite J Port Angeles, WA 98362 | 360-452-4726

Forks: 71 Spartan Ave, #2 Forks, WA 98331 | 360-374-6193

About: provides supportive services such as outreach, referrals, etc. to youth aged 12 – 17 experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Can self-refer by calling OlyCap.

Serenity House

2203 W 18th St Port Angeles, WA 98363 | 360-565-5041 | youth@serenityhouseclallam.org

About: provides programs designed to assist youth aged 12 – 17 and young adults 18 – 24 with achieving their housing, education, and employment goals. Services include a youth drop-in center, case management, rental

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assistance, help with food, transportation, utilities, and referrals.

The Coffee Oasis Drop-in Centers

Bremerton: 822 Burwell St, Bremerton, WA 98337 | 360-479-5123

Kingston: 11212 WA-104, Kingston, WA 98346 | 360- 881-0228

Poulsbo: 780 NE Iverson St, Poulsbo, WA 98370 | 360-598-2091

Port Orchard: 807A Bay St, Port Orchard, WA 98366 | 360-602-0408

About: drop-in centers open to young adults aged 13 – 25 for free food, showers, clothing, activities, life-skills classes, and a safe community. Has an explicit Care of LGBTQIA+ Youth policy.

NW Hopeful Horizons

360-471-8805| augie@nwhopefulhorizons.org

About: focuses on providing advocacy for LGBTQIA youth and their families, with an emphasis on supporting parents of transgender youth. Services include navigation of the legal system, behavioral health services, educational and skill-building programs, resource referrals, and community connection.

Vancouver - Housing

Oak Bridge Youth Shelter (Janus Youth)

2609 NE 93rd Ave Vancouver, WA 98662 | 360-891-2634 | 1-888-979-4357 |

oakbridge@janusyouth.org | www.janusyouth.org

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About: serves both state-dependent and non-state involved youth ages 9 – 17 and their families. Accessible 24/7. Provides family reunification and mediation services, social skills training, education and aftercare support. Refer by calling. Also provides up to 14 days of 24 hour emergency shelter to youth not involved with the state.

Vancouver - Community Resources

The Perch (Janus Youth)

1501 Columbia St, Vancouver (WA), 98660 | 360-213-5947 | theperchwashingtong@gmail.com | www.janusyouth.org

About: a day-time drop-in center for homeless youth aged 15 – 24. Offers a dry, warm, safe place where youth have access to laundry facilities, computers, a phone, a meal and skilled staff to help them problem solve.

Cowlitz County Street Outreach (Janus Youth)

Yellow Brick Road Street Youth Services: 360-3535545 | The Sottera Project: 360-998-0817

About: a street outreach program located in the Kelso/Longview area. Professional staff initiate contact with vulnerable, homeless youth and connect them to local resources, referral and crisis services.

Yellow Brick Road Washington (Janus Youth)

360-314-5716 | www.janusyouth.org

About: professional staff and highly trained community volunteers initiate over 2,900 face-to-face contacts with vulnerable youth on the streets each month building trust, providing information, referral and crisis intervention services.

Children's Home Society (Triple Point Program)

Vancouver: 360-695-1325

Washougal: 360-835-7802

Vancouver Location: 309 W. 12th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660

C/W Location: 1702 C Street, Washougal, WA
98671

About: empowers LGBTQIA+ youth (11 – 18) and allies by providing education, safety, support and acceptance.

Innovative Services NW - Youth Impact Program

9414 NE Fourth Plain Blvd Vancouver, WA 98662
| 360-892-5142 | www.innovativeservicesnw.org

About: works with current and former foster youth ages 15 – 24, and low income, out-of-school and homeless youth ages 16 – 21 on work readiness, skills development, career training opportunities and job placement and retention services.

Queer Youth Resource Center

<https://www.qyrcvancouverwa.org/>

About: partners with the community to promote recreational youth events, engage in networking and outreach, as well as share important LGBTQIA+ resources across Southwest Washington.

Eastern Washington

Spokane - Housing

Crosswalk Youth Shelter

525 W 2nd Ave Spokane, WA 99201 | 509-688-1112 | crosswalk@voaspokane.org

About: one of two licensed emergency shelters serving runaway and homeless youth in Eastern Washington. Partners with an array of case managers, teachers, health care workers, and chemical dependency counselors to end a youth's homelessness and connect them to both stabilizing and supportive services.

Volunteers of America (VOA) Young Adult Shelter

3104 E Augusta Avenue, Spokane WA 99202 | 509-990-0519 | ldavis@voaspokane.org

About: welcomes individuals and couples in their overnight shelter program and offers case management services and access housing resource specialists.

Spokane - Community Resources

Odyssey Youth Center

1121 S Perry St Spokane, WA 99202 | 509-325-3637 | oym@odysseyyouth.org

About: drop-in program provides activities and resources for local LGBTQIA+ youth. Participants enjoy a hot meal and snacks, activities, and programs and provides access to a gender-affirming clothing closet, school supplies, hygiene and safer sex items, and referrals for housing, transportation, and counseling.

Volunteers of America - inReach

inreach@voaspokane.org

About: provides resources for young adults aged 13 – 24 in the Spokane area who are in unstable living environments.

Tri-Cities - Housing

Safe Harbor - My Friend's Place

1112 N Grant Place Kennewick, WA 99336 | 509-438-0079

About: committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and teens when there are no other alternatives. Provides outreach, support, and training to assist families in establishing a safe and stable environment.

Walla Walla - Housing

The Loft

534 S 3rd Ave, Suite B102 Walla Walla,
Washington 99362 | 509-876-0130

About: a HOPE Center low barrier, temporary shelter (up to 30 days) for youth ages of 12 – 17 experiencing homelessness as long as they do not have a history of sexual offense or violence. It is located at the Hub (which shares a location with Blue Mountain Action Council) near Lincoln High School. Youth are required to participate in education placement, such as high school or alternative school curriculum. Other resources include case management, counseling, employment search assistance, hygiene, gender affirming clothing, legal and community services, medical and dental appointments, wifi access, and recreational activities.

Walla Walla - Community Resources

Children's Home Society (Triple Point Program)

1612 Penny Lane Walla Walla, WA 99362 | 509-529-2130

About: empowers LGBTQIA+ youth (13 – 18) and allies by providing education, safety, support and acceptance.

Wenatchee - Housing

No shelters in Wenatchee Valley to house persons under 18 years of age.

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Wenatchee - Community Resources

Children's Home Society (Triple Point Program)
1014 Walla Walla Ave Wenatchee, WA 98801 |
509-663-0034

About: empowers LGBTQIA+ youth (12 – 18) and allies by providing education, safety, support and acceptance.

Pullman – Housing

No shelters located in Pullman to house persons under 18 years of age.

Leavenworth - Housing

No shelters located in Leavenworth to house persons under 18 years of age.

Yakima - Housing

O'Hana Crisis Center

1106 Hathaway St, Yakima, WA 98902 | 509-571-1480

About: O'Hana Crisis Center is a DCYF emergency crisis facility that has a stay limit of 15 days.

Yakima - Community Resources

Rod's House

204 S Naches Ave, Yakima, WA 98901 | 509-317-2048 | 509-895-2665 | office@rodshouse.org

About: a resource center for homeless and at-risk youth ages 13 – 24. Offers immediate needs care by providing a hot meal, food and hygiene, pantry, a clothing bank and laundry facilities. Helps youth to exit homelessness and to reach their full potential by assisting them with educational and employment opportunities. Also provides a safe environment free from drugs, violence and gang activity.

The Space LGBTQ Youth Center (Yakima Neighborhood Health)

12 S. 8th Street Yakima, WA 98901 | 509-574-4216 | www.ynhs.org/programs/youth-resources

About: a special gathering place for Yakima-area LGBTQIA+ and allied youth between the ages of 13 – 24. Youth can do homework, have a snack, check email, play games, enjoy the craft room, and participate in scheduled activities. Behavioral Health appointments can also be made.

National Directory

If you find yourself in and unsafe or unstable environment, you can call one of the many emergency resources designed to help LGBTQIA+ persons in crisis:

The information in this guide is current as of August 2023. It is guideline information only. It is not legal advice. If you need specific legal advice, please consult a lawyer.

National Runaway Safeline (NRS): call 1-800.786-2929 | www.1800runaway.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 | www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Safe Place: text the word “SAFE” and your location to 4HELP (44357)

The Trevor Project: call 1-866-488-7386 or text the word “START” to 678678

Trans Lifeline: call 1-877-565-8860

Frontier Regional Crisis Line: call 1-877-266-1818 (Spokane, Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Orielle, and Stevens counties)

LGBT National Youth Talkline: call 1-800-246-7743

Crisis Text Line: text 741741

Teen Talk (Clark County): call 360-397-2428 | text 360-984-0936

Washington State – Legal and Civil Rights

Washington Human Rights Commission: Call 1-800-233-3247

Lavender Rights Project: Call 206-639-7955

LCYC: Call 206-494-0323 or email
yhp@lcyowa.org

QLaw Foundation: Call 206-483-2725 or email
info@qlawfoundation.org

TransFamilies: Call 855-443-6337
Gender Diversity: Call 1-833-3GENDER or email
info@genderdiversity.org

ACLU Washington: Call 206-624-2180, from
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Thursdays

**OSPI's (Public School) Equity and Civil Rights
Office:** Call 360-725-6162 or email
equity@k12.wa.us

Northwest Network: Call 206-568-7777

Center for Children & Youth Justice: Call 206-
696-7503 or email SupportCCYJ@ccyj.org

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