

Juvenile Rehabilitation Division Policy

6.70 Marriage for JR Young Adults

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Revised Date:

Sunset Review Date: August 11, 2026

Approved by: Frank Ordway, DCYF Chief of Staff



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to employees regarding adults seeking to get married while in a Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facility.

Scope

This policy applies to Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) residential employees.

Laws

Chapter 26.04 RCW Marriage

RCW 26.04.150 Application for license—May be secured by mail—Execution and acknowledgement

RCW 26.28.015 Age of majority for enumerated specific purposes

RCW 26.50.130 Order for protection—Modification or termination—Service—Transmittal

Policy

1. Young adults may marry while in a JR facility if the JR young adult:
 - a. Is at least 18 years of age per RCW 26.28.015.
 - b. Has served at least 6 months of their sentence in a JR facility before initiating the marriage application process.
 - c. Submitted at least 90 days ahead of the intended marriage date.
 - d. Follows all marriage requirements below.
2. Designated employees must follow the Marriage Process Checklist to determine if:
 - a. Both the JR young adult and intended spouse are eligible to marry and not prohibited per RCW 26.04.020.
 - b. The marriage complies with RCW 26.04.
 - c. The following scenarios exist (note: these scenarios will be more highly scrutinized and may be denied):
 - i. The young adult or proposed spouse may be the perpetrator or victim of a crime together, or has a current or past order of protection (RCW 26.50.130).
 - ii. The requested marriage is between two JR young adults.
3. The Appointing Authority or designee will review the packet of information and determine if the application process is:
 - a. Denied. If the young adult disagrees with the decision, they must provide a written complaint and follow JR Policy 2.10 Handling Youth Complaints.
 - b. Approved and should proceed. If approved, both young adults must attend pre-marital counseling by religious clergy or a certified professional counselor prior to the marriage. Counseling:
 - i. Will be provided by JR. Young adults may seek counseling outside of what JR provides at their own cost.

- ii. Must include disclosure of criminal histories and background check of both parties.
- iii. May also:
 - 1. Include members of the family that will reside in the home upon release.
 - 2. Address any severe mental, physical or emotional limitations.
 - 3. Be conducted in person, over the telephone, or virtually.
- 4. JR will not pay any marriage license application fees or associated wedding expenses.
- 5. Any person qualified under RCW 26.04.050 may conduct the wedding ceremony.
- 6. Wedding ceremony clothing must pre-approved by the appointing authority.
- 7. JR facility employees will facilitate the wedding ceremony at the facility, or virtually.
- 8. The Appointing Authority or designee may:
 - a. Pre-approve other JR youth or young adults who attend the ceremony.
 - b. Allow outside visitors to attend if approved under JR Policy 6.21 Facilitating Visitation for JR Youth, unless prohibited by current medical guidelines.
 - i. Professional photographers must be preapproved and clear a background check.
- 9. The wedding must be private, with no media coverage. Any pictures or recordings of the wedding must abide by DCYF Administrative Policy 3.02 Photographs, Video, and Audio for Communication and Marketing Purposes, will be reviewed for content and policy compliance, and must not:
 - a. Include nudity or suggestive posturing.
 - b. Show gang signs or other gang affiliated appearances.
 - c. Include other JR youth or young adults.
 - d. Include images that could compromise the safety or security of the facility.
- 10. Conjugal visits for married JR young adults are prohibited.
- 11. After the marriage, the designated employee will add or update ACT information with the spouse, including client relationships, Reentry Team Meetings, and the Reentry Plan.

Forms

Acknowledgement of JR Policy on Marriage
 Agreement on Nondisclosure of Confidential Information: Non-Employee DCYF 03-374B
 Background Check Authorization DCYF 09-653
 Marriage Application
 Marriage Approval for Release of Information
 Marriage Approval Routing
 Marriage Counseling
 Marriage Process Checklist
 PREA Sexual Misconduct Disclosure DCYF 20-296

Resources

DCYF Administrative Policy 3.02 Photographs, Video, and Audio for Communication and Marketing Purposes
 JR Policy 2.10 Handling Youth Complaints
 JR Policy 6.21 Facilitating Visitation for JR Youth