

# PREGNANCY AND PARENTING IN DETENTION



*Answers to questions about your options, your rights and what to expect while in juvenile detention*



Washington  
Appleseed

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We gratefully acknowledge the involvement of many people who contributed to this publication:

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Washington Appleseed is a non-profit organization working to address social and economic problems in our state by developing new public policy initiatives, challenging unjust laws, and helping people better understand and fully exercise their rights. We believe that by engaging both volunteer lawyers and community partnership these efforts, we better identify systemic problems, outline potential solutions, and achieve effective and lasting social change. Learn more at [www.WaAppleseed.org](http://www.WaAppleseed.org).



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Foster Pepper PLLC has a rich tradition of giving back to the community through pro bono advocacy. The firm's attorneys dedicate their time and talent to cases and projects that change the trajectory of lives for the better and make the legal system accessible to all, not just those who can afford it. The firm receives its pro bono cases from leading non-profits, like Appleseed, and greatly values the opportunity to partner on important initiatives that provide systematic and positive change to the community at large.

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Washington Appleseed, in collaboration with attorneys and interns at Foster Pepper PLLC, has created this pamphlet for pregnant and parenting young women involved in Washington State's juvenile justice system. We hope that this pamphlet will help young women understand their rights and obligations so they can make healthy and informed choices.

**This pamphlet is not a substitute for legal advice.** While no one can tell you what choices to make, your attorney, probation counselor, social worker, or another professional can help answer your questions and help you make the most informed decision.

\*\* Words in *italics* are defined in the Glossary on page 12.

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## 1. I'm not sure, but I think I might be pregnant. What should I do?

It is important to find out if you are pregnant **as soon as possible**. Even if you have taken a pregnancy test at home, it is important to get a pregnancy test from a health care provider.<sup>1</sup> You do not need your permission from your parent or guardian to get a pregnancy test, and the results will be confidential.<sup>2</sup>

If you are in detention, ask to see health care staff. You don't have to tell anyone why you'd like to see a doctor unless you want to, and health care personnel are only allowed to share the results of your pregnancy test with detention staff who will help you receive proper medical services; other than that they need your permission to share your information.<sup>3</sup> If you know you are pregnant, you should tell health care staff immediately.

If you are not currently in detention, you can find a list of free or low-cost health care services in your county on page 16.

## 2. If I am pregnant, what do I do next? What are my options?

You and you alone have the right to decide whether or not to continue the pregnancy.<sup>4</sup> Once you know you are pregnant, you have three options: terminate the pregnancy, continue the pregnancy and give the baby up for adoption, or continue the pregnancy and raise the baby yourself.

If you wish to end the pregnancy, you do not need anyone's *consent* in Washington State, even if you are under eighteen.<sup>5</sup> Terminating your pregnancy is a confidential medical procedure and only essential health care and detention center staff will know about your choice—they cannot inform your parents, or even the father, without your consent.

If you wish to continue the pregnancy, you must decide if you will give the baby up for adoption or raise the baby yourself. If adoption is the right option for you, you may choose to have a *closed adoption* or an *open adoption*. A closed adoption means that the adoptive parents do not have any information about you and that you will not have an ongoing relationship with the baby. An open adoption means that you and the adoptive family know who each other are. You would not have any *parental rights*, but there is the potential to remain involved in the baby's life.



**IMPORTANT:** If you choose to continue the pregnancy, the baby's father will have some rights in making parenting decisions like putting the baby up for adoption. Please see page 6 for more information about the father's rights and consult your attorney if you have specific concerns.

A *family planning counselor* can help answer your questions about adoption, abortion, and parenting. Health care staff at the detention center can arrange for you to speak with a family planning counselor or, if you are not currently in detention, see the resource list on page 16 for a list of free and low-cost services that might be able to help you.

### 3. Will the court consider the fact that I am pregnant or if I have a baby in deciding my case?

It depends. Prosecutors and courts do have some flexibility in handling the charges against you and in assigning both the length of your sentence and where you will serve that sentence. If you want the court to consider your pregnancy, or your baby, tell your attorney immediately.

With this information in hand, your attorney can work with the prosecutor, the court, and others to arrange the most appropriate sentence for your circumstances.

The court can impose three kinds of sentences:

- a *standard range sentence*,<sup>6</sup>
- a *suspended sentence*<sup>7</sup> which may involve *local sanctions*,<sup>8</sup> or
- a *chemical dependency disposition alternative*.<sup>9</sup>

Most of the time, the court order you to complete a standard range sentence based on your age, the offense(s) you committed, and your criminal history.

For less serious offenses, the court can sentence you using the standard range, but postpone the sentence and impose local sanctions like short-term confinement, community supervision, or a monetary fine. The court has a greater ability to set conditions on local sanctions, depending on your needs. If you fail to meet the conditions set by the judge, the court may make you serve your original sentence in detention.

If you have been charged with a first-time misdemeanor, you may be eligible for a diversion program.<sup>10</sup> In a diversion program, the judge will issue an order not to carry out the sentence as long as you follow the conditions ordered by the court. The conditions might include substance

abuse treatment, counseling, or community service, and the judge will have discretion in setting these. If you fail to follow the guidelines, the court can re-impose the original sentence.

Again, it's important that your attorney know that you are pregnant (or parenting) so that the judge can consider this. Your attorney is the best person to give you advice about what kind of sentencing options may be available to you.

## 4. Do I need special medical care while I'm pregnant?



Yes. Your body and your baby have special needs throughout pregnancy and you should receive special medical care called prenatal care to make sure that you and your baby are healthy. Prenatal care includes regular check-ups with a doctor to cure and prevent problems during pregnancy, often called complications. Prenatal care also includes nutritional supplements to help the baby get a healthy start in life. It is important to start *prenatal care* as early in the pregnancy as possible.

Your detention facility is required to address any serious medical needs you have during your pregnancy.<sup>11</sup> Talk to health care staff about getting regular check-ups and proper nutrition. Make sure the detention staff is aware of any special instructions from your doctor that interfere with your daily schedule or that require special attention or treatment. If you develop any complications related to your pregnancy, the detention facility is required to provide you access to immediate medical care.

Again, medical information is confidential and will not be shared outside the facility unless you agree.<sup>12</sup> You do not need your parent or guardian's consent to receive medical care during pregnancy, no matter how old you are.<sup>13</sup>

If you are not currently in detention, please see page 16 for some free or low-cost services available in your county.

## 5. What if I go into labor while I am in detention?

If you think you might be in detention when your baby is due (remember that babies do not always arrive on their due dates), talk to the health care staff about how delivery will be handled.

If you already plan to deliver your baby at a particular hospital, tell the staff. If you do not have a delivery plan, ask the health care staff to help you develop one, so you all know what to do when you go into labor.

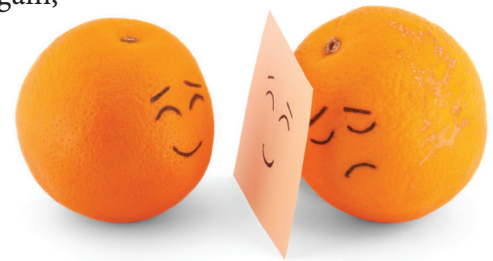
If you think you are going into labor, tell health care or detention staff immediately so they can arrange for transportation to a hospital where you can deliver your baby. Early signs of labor can be confusing, so even if you just feel sick tell a staff person right away.

## 6. Will I get medical help after the baby is born?

After the baby is born, you should receive *postpartum care*, which are medical services for after your labor. You will spend one or more days in a hospital after the birth, depending on your medical needs. Even if you are in detention, you have the right to stay in the hospital after you give birth. While most medical problems arise during, or within the first few hours after, the birth, some may take days or weeks to appear. After you leave the hospital, it is important to tell someone if you are not feeling well. You should also have a postpartum check-up about six weeks after you leave the hospital.

Sometimes, women feel depressed, inadequate, tired, or have trouble sleeping, eating, or concentrating after having a baby. These symptoms can mean you have *postpartum depression* or the “baby blues.” Medical staff can help you feel like yourself again, so ask for help, especially if you have thoughts of harming yourself or your baby.

If you are not currently in detention, please see page 16 for a list of low-cost or free services.



## 7. What rights does the baby father's have?

As mentioned earlier, you and you alone decide whether or not to continue the pregnancy. While many women talk to the baby's father about their decision, the father has no legal say in your choice to terminate a pregnancy and you are not required by law to tell him about your decision.

If you choose to continue your pregnancy, the father has the right to know he will be a father, and it is up to you to tell him. The father will have rights in making parenting decisions and he also has some obligations to pay child support if you choose to raise the baby yourself.

If you plan to place the baby for adoption, you will need the father's consent in most cases. If the

father has stated that he has no interest in raising the baby, sometimes his consent can be waived. Talk to your attorney about your individual circumstances.

If you plan to raise the baby yourself, the father should sign a *paternity acknowledgment affidavit*. This is a legal document that states he is the baby's father and it allows you to collect child support. This form also protects the father's rights to negotiate custody or *visitation* of the baby if he is interested in helping to raise the baby (for more information on custody, see questions 8, 9 and 10). Your attorney can help you complete these forms.

If the father refuses to sign the paternity affidavit, you will need to go to court to determine paternity. This is called a *petition for the establishment of parentage* and it must be filed within two years of the baby's birth. Again, your attorney is the best person to advise you on this process.

If you became pregnant as a result of abuse or domestic violence or rape or have experienced domestic violence, talk to your Probation Counselor and your attorney **immediately**. There are laws that can help protect you and your baby from your abuser, even if that person is also the father of the baby. If you are not currently in detention, the organizations listed on page 16 can help you.

## 8. Can the state take away my baby because I am in detention?

Your baby cannot stay with you in detention, but you do have the right to continue parenting your baby, and making decisions about who will care for your baby, even while you are in detention. However, if you abuse or neglect your baby, you will lose this right. In that case, your parental rights can be challenged in three key ways: your baby can be declared a *dependent of the State*, a *non-parental custodian* may be assigned, or your parental rights may be terminated.

Here is a brief overview of each of these parental challenges:

**Dependency Proceedings:** If you refuse to appoint someone to look after your baby while you are in detention (see the next question), DSHS will initiate *dependency proceedings* in court. If the court makes your baby a *dependent child*,<sup>14</sup> the State temporarily assumes parental custody and will decide where to place your baby, which could be with a relative or a foster parent. You have the right to be represented by an attorney in these proceedings.<sup>15</sup> You may also want to ask your attorney about being involved in conference calls and hearings during the proceedings. Upon your release, the court should assist in having the baby returned to you.<sup>16</sup>

**Non-Parental Custodians:** A person taking care of your baby can also ask a court to make them

a non-parental custodian.<sup>17</sup> A *non-parental custodian* has the right to physical custody of your baby and the right to make decisions regarding your baby's welfare. The court may grant non-parental custody only if it finds that it is in the best interests of your baby and that neither you nor the baby's father is a suitable custodian. You have the right to challenge the person's request in court. You can also ask the court to return your baby to you if your circumstances change, and to allow that in any order establishing non-parental custody.<sup>18</sup> Allowing a non-parental custodian to care for your baby while you are in detention is generally seen as a half-way point between total parental custody and the *termination of parental rights*.

**Termination of Parental Rights:** In some circumstances, the State can also ask a court to terminate your parental rights.<sup>19</sup> The termination of parental rights means that all obligations and rights, including your rights to custody, control, visitation, or support are **permanently** terminated.<sup>20</sup> You have the right to attend any court hearings related to your parental rights with an attorney.

A court will consider many factors in deciding whether or not to terminate your parental rights, including, but not limited to:

- if the baby is declared a dependent of the State;
- it is recommended by the supervising agency;
- it is in the best interests of the baby; and
- there was some aggravating factor such as abuse of the baby or certain very serious offenses committed by you.<sup>21</sup>

The laws surrounding termination of parental rights<sup>22</sup> are complicated; talk to your attorney if you have any questions regarding this issue.



## 9. What happens to my baby while I'm in detention?

Your baby cannot stay with you in detention, so even if you've decided to raise the baby yourself you will have to decide who will take care of the baby until you are released. Most of the time, the baby stays in the care of the father, a trusted relative, or a foster parent.

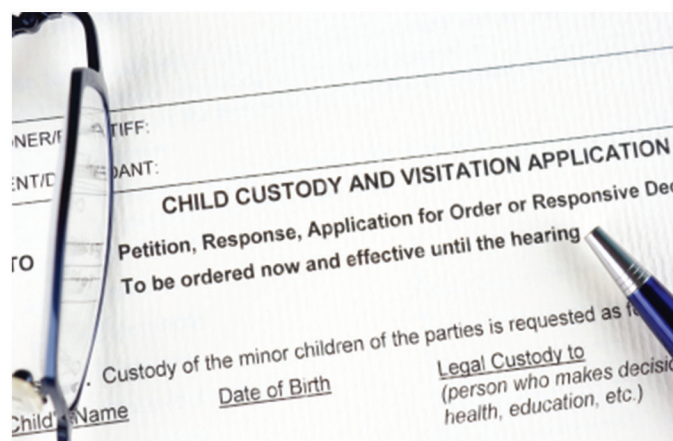
If the baby's father is named on the birth certificate and a paternity acknowledgment affidavit has

been signed, (see Question 7 for more information) then he has a right to custody if he wants to raise the baby. The father can make all medical and other decisions for your baby while you are in detention. Talk with your attorney about how placing the baby with his or her father could affect your right to custody after your release. If you have been abused by the baby's father, tell your attorney **immediately**. Your attorney can work to protect you and your baby.

If the father is not interested in caring for the baby, you can ask a relative you trust to care for your baby. You should provide this person with a *temporary parental consent agreement* (TPCA) or *voluntary placement agreement* (VPA). These agreements give the care-taker authority to make medical and educational decisions and help them access benefits your baby is entitled to. They may also be entitled to child support from you, the baby's father or even the baby's grandparents. Please refer to Question 12 for more information on child support. NOTE: the arrangements mentioned here are less severe than the those discussed in the previous question. Consult your attorney for additional clarification.

You can ask Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to temporarily place your baby in foster care. If the father is not interested in caring for the baby and you are not comfortable entrusting your baby to a relative, DSHS can temporarily place your baby in foster care until your release from detention.

The placement of your baby is a serious decision that may affect your future parental rights. Talk to your attorney about your options.



**IMPORTANT:** If you do not voluntarily place your baby in the care of a suitable person while you are in detention, DSHS will initiate dependency proceedings in court and can make this important parenting decision for you. Should this happen, you have the right to be represented by an attorney in the proceedings.<sup>23</sup> See Question 8 for more information.

## 10. How can I keep in contact with my baby while I am in detention?

You can stay in contact with your baby through visits at the detention center, phone calls, and letters. Talk to detention center staff about the center's visitation, phone, and mail policies.

If you placed your baby in the care of a relative or in foster care under a voluntary placement agreement with DSHS, the relative or foster parent is required to bring your baby to visit you

according to the terms you work out in the voluntary placement agreement. If you want to informally place your baby in the care of a relative, you should make sure the relative you choose is willing to bring your baby to visit you. Unless you make other arrangements with your probation counselor, your baby must be accompanied by one of your parents or guardians or the baby's father or guardian when s/he visits you while you are in detention.

If your baby's guardian does not bring your baby to visit you, contact your attorney for advice.

## 11. What benefits are available for my baby and me?

While you are in detention, you may be not be eligible for many government financial assistance programs. However, your baby may be eligible for some benefits, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (see below). Talk to your probation counselor about these programs before your release; she can help you apply for these programs so they will begin as soon as you are out of detention.

If you are not currently in detention, you and your baby may be eligible for a number of these programs. **You should contact your local DSHS Community Services Office for information and to apply for these programs (1.800.737.0617).** Some of the programs available include:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides cash assistance if you are (1) low income; (2) pregnant or a parent; (3) are living with your parents, an adult relative, a legal guardian, or a in living situation approved by the DSHS; and (4) in school or looking for a job. Other factors may affect your TANF benefits. For example, if you are under 16 and living with the father of your baby, you may not be eligible for the full amount of TANF benefits. You may also not be eligible for the full benefit amount if you receive child support payments from the father of your baby. If you do not cooperate with DSHS to get child support from the father, DSHS may also reduce your benefits (unless you have a valid reason for not cooperating).

Basic Food (Food Stamps) helps low-income individuals and families obtain a more nutritious diet by supplementing their income with funds to purchase certain food items.

Basic Health provides affordable health care insurance to low-income individuals and families. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education and supplemental food, such as



formula, cereal, eggs, and milk to low-income pregnant women and new mothers. If you are eligible for TANF, Basic Food, or Basic Health benefits, you also meet the income guidelines for WIC benefits.

## 12. What about child support? Can I get money from the baby's father?

If you want child support from your baby's father you will first have to name him on the baby's birth certificate, as we mentioned earlier when talking about the rights of the father and custody in Questions 7 & 8. While you are in detention, you cannot get child support payments from your baby's father because you do not have custody of your baby.<sup>24</sup> A person caring for your baby, however, may have a right to child support payments from you, your baby's father, or your baby's grandparents.<sup>25</sup>

Unless your baby's father or your parents voluntarily agree, you must ask the court to order them to pay you child support. You can ask the court to establish child support payments.<sup>26</sup> DSHS can also help you collect payments (see the Resources section on page 16 for more information). You can also talk to your attorney about how to set up this plan.

If you are not in detention and are caring for your baby, you are entitled to child support from your baby's father. You can get child support even if you are not married to the father of your baby, living together, or in a relationship. Even if he is unemployed, you are entitled to at least \$25 per month in child support. Remember, however, that if your baby's father is caring for the baby, he may be entitled to child support from you.<sup>27</sup>

## 13. What if I have experienced abuse or domestic violence? What can I do?

If you have experienced abuse and/or domestic violence please talk to your probation counselor and your attorney immediately. Abuse is a very serious threat to the safety of you and your baby, and these adults will work to protect you and your baby from any further harm.

**IMPORTANT:** If your baby has been the victim of abuse, you are under a legal obligation to report it.<sup>28</sup> If you are not currently in detention, see Resources section on page 16 for information about services that can help you.

# Glossary

**Chemical dependency disposition alternative.** Washington State gives judges a special sentencing option for youth with substance abuse issues. Judges are allowed to order chemically dependent youth to successfully complete a drug treatment program, rather than a standard range sentence in detention. Once evidence of addiction is produced in court, a judge can order a medical examination and prescribe substance abuse treatment, instead of time in detention.

**Closed adoption.** In this type of parenting agreement, neither the adoptive parents nor the birth parents know each other, and they never meet. Instead, all the arrangements and paperwork occur through a another person or case manager, usually an adoption agency or an attorney. A closed adoption doesn't mean that the adoptive parents and birth parents know nothing about each other; it means is they have no identifying information about each other.

**Complications.** Some women may face minor health problems and complications during pregnancy. A much smaller number of women will unfortunately face more serious pregnancy complications. When these pregnancy complications occur, usually a visit to your healthcare provider is required. It's very important to report any unusual pregnancy symptoms to your provider, so you can get checked out. Pregnancy complications should never be ignored.

**Consent.** In the legal sense, consent means you understand what is being asked of you, and you give permission for it. If you don't understand what is being asked of you, or the thing you give permission for is different from the thing that actually happens, even giving your permission does not mean you have given valid legal consent. In order to be valid, consent usually has to be spoken, written, or expressed in some other way, like nodding your head. However, it can be implied in some cases, when your actions seem to mean you are giving your consent to something. For example, getting on a bus may imply consent to go where the bus takes you.

**Custody.** This is the right and responsibility to make decisions for a baby in important areas such as education, instruction in religion, and health care (legal custody). This is usually shared between both parents. It also refers to the person with whom the baby spends most of its time (physical custody). One parent might have physical custody of a baby but both can still have legal custody. The non-parental custodian can still have visitation rights (see below).

**Dependency proceedings.** This is a proceeding where a court decides whether or not to declare a baby dependent, which means that the baby has been abandoned, has been abused or neglected, or has no parent, guardian, or custodian who can adequately care for him/her, and there is a danger of substantial damage to the baby's psychological or physical development. If the court determines the baby is dependent, it will also determine where and with whom the baby will live, what social services the parent must complete to get the baby back, and what DSHS must do to help the parent complete the services. Dependency proceedings can involve more than one hearing to answer a number of questions about the baby's situation, and to help the court make decisions about what is best for the baby. Parents of a baby involved in such proceedings have a right to be represented by an attorney during the proceedings.

**Dependent child/Dependent of the state.** This is a legal term with a special meaning. According to Washington State law, a dependent child is one who has been abandoned; is abused or neglected; or has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately caring for him/her and is therefore taken into the care of the State. The State then becomes the child's legal custodian (see custody above).

**Diversion program.** A community-based sentence that keeps offenders out of detention. These community sentences can include:

- community service/volunteer work
- counseling
- paying a fine and/or paying restitution (restitution is money paid to the victim for damages they suffered as a result of your crime)
- education aimed at preventing future offenses by the offender
- avoiding situations for a specified period of time in the future that may lead to committing another such offense (such as contact with certain people)

**Family Planning (FP) Counselor.** This is someone who you can talk to about reproductive health – i.e. various methods of birth control or contraception, and about becoming or being pregnant. The role of the FP Counselor is about giving the client the information they need to make choices for themselves and to answer questions that the client may have.

**Local sanctions.** A sanction is a penalty, or threat of penalty, for disobeying a law. Washington State provides that for certain less serious offenses, the court may sentence an offender to local sanctions rather than state detention. Local sanctions may include up to 30 days of county detention, up to 12 months of community supervision, up to 150 hours of community service, and up to \$500 in fines. With the exception of county detention, local sanctions allow a youth to live at home while meeting sentence terms. And county detention may be preferable to being sentenced to a state detention facility, that may have fewer privileges, or be located farther from the youth's home.

**Non-parental custodian.** Any person who is not a baby's parent may petition the court for legal custody of the baby if the baby is not in the physical custody of either parent or if neither parent is a suitable custodian. The parent(s) may oppose the petition, and the court will award custody to the non-parent only if the parent(s) are unfit, or the baby's growth and development would be detrimentally affected by living with an otherwise fit parent, and the non-parent is a suitable custodian, or it is in the baby's best interest to live with the non-parent. A non-parental custodian has the right to have the baby live with him/her and to make educational, medical, and other major decisions for the baby.

**Open adoption.** In an open adoption, the adopters and the birth parents both know each other's full names. It is not open if only one side has identifying information about the other. They may agree to exchange photos and letters directly, without using the agency or attorney as a middleman. In an open adoption, the person or agency who arranges the adoption often creates a contract that spells out what is expected of each side; for example, how often photographs and letters will be exchanged, and how they will be exchanged (either directly or through the adoption agency). If one side backs out of the agreement, the other may be able to take the matter to court but, in most cases, the contracts do not appear to be enforceable.

**Parental rights.** Parental rights are the rights to custody of your baby. This includes making decisions regarding your baby's welfare, such as those regarding health or education. In certain circumstances, like neglect, abuse or abandonment, the State may terminate or limit parental rights.

**Paternity acknowledgment affidavit.** A legal document that can be used by a man to either confirm or deny that he is a father of a baby. If a woman is married to a man when she gives birth, it is legally assumed that her husband is the father. If he is not the father, then one of these forms will be needed for him to legally deny that he is the father of the baby. For unmarried parents, the father should complete a paternity acknowledgment affidavit if he wants parental rights (see above) or to challenge the adoption of his baby. It should also be filled out before the father's name is put on the birth certificate. A paternity acknowledgment affidavit is necessary before child support

can be collected from the father.

The presumption of parenthood for married same-sex couples in Washington State is a new area of law, and expectant mothers or fathers in same-sex marriages should research this subject in order to make informed decisions about their rights and responsibilities.

**Petition for the establishment of parentage.** A court action brought by either the child, the mother of the child, the man whose paternity is being questioned or another person/agency acting for the child to find out whether a particular man is the father of a particular child. Once declared to be the child's father, the man may be required to support the child.

**Postpartum care.** In the first several weeks after giving birth, women need special health care to recover from the physical and emotional effects of pregnancy, delivery, and motherhood. This special care includes monitoring for complications, proper healing, and post-partum depression; providing information on postpartum body changes and self-care; and counseling for breastfeeding and baby care.

**Postpartum depression.** Many new moms experience the “baby blues” for a few days or weeks after giving birth and feel sadness, anxiety, irritability, exhaustion, and inadequacy. Others develop a more severe and longer-lasting form of depression within the first six months after giving birth and feel these symptoms to an extent that interferes with their ability to function. In rare cases, new moms will experience fear of harming themselves or their babies, confusion and disorientation, hallucinations and delusions, and paranoia. These symptoms are often treatable, and mothers experiencing them should seek medical help immediately.

**Prenatal care.** Special health care given during pregnancy helps to ensure that pregnant women deliver healthy babies. This special health care includes screening and monitoring for medical problems or complications, managing risk factors such as tobacco or alcohol use; nutrition assessment and counseling; health education, information, and counseling about pregnancy, labor and delivery, and baby care; and assessment and care for psychosocial needs such as stress reduction.

**Standard range sentence.** Washington law defines the minimum and maximum period of time the court may sentence a juvenile offender to detention in a state facility based on the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history of the offender. A standard range sentence is one that falls within the shortest and longest time in detention defined.

**Suspended sentence.** Washington State law gives judges discretion to delay the standard range sentence after a person has been found guilty, so they can perform a period of probation. This may occur for a variety of reasons, but the common assumption is that the judge feels that serving out a standard range sentence would increase, rather than decreasing, the likelihood that an offender would re-offend. The offender must meet conditions of probation such as community service or substance abuse counseling to avoid detention. If an offender meets all conditions and does not break the law during the probation period, the judge usually throws out the sentence (though it stays on the offender's record). If conditions are not met, or the offender breaks the law, the original sentence goes into effect.

**Temporary parental consent agreement (TPCA).** A baby's parent(s) can sign a written agreement giving the baby's temporary caregiver(s) the authority to make medical and educational decisions affecting the baby. This includes the power to obtain care and services for the baby, so that schools, doctors, and others will accept the caregiver's authority to act on the baby's behalf. The agreement does not restrict parental rights, and the parent can cancel it at any time.

**Termination of parental rights.** When parental rights are terminated, all obligations and rights, including the parent's rights to custody, control, visitation, or support are terminated forever. Once the parental rights are terminated, the person is no longer considered to legally be the parent of the baby. Parental rights can usually be terminated in one of two ways: through a dependency proceeding, or voluntarily. Voluntary terminations usually happen when a parent gives a baby up for adoption. They may also happen as part of an agreement between parents, where one parent gives up all rights to a baby in exchange for never having to pay child support, or other obligations.

**Visitation.** A legal term describing permission for a parent or another person, who is not in full-time custody of a baby, to visit the baby. Visitation can be ordered by the court, or agreed upon by the individuals involved. In cases where the court is not involved in the agreement, it may be a good idea to write the terms of visitation down, or record them in some way, in order to avoid confusion later.

**Voluntary placement agreement (VPA).** A baby's parent(s) can sign a written agreement with DSHS to allow a suitable person, including a relative or a foster parent, to take care of the baby for up to 180 days. The parent(s) can cancel this agreement at any time.

**Waived.** To waive means to voluntarily surrender or give up a right that you have.

## Statewide Resources

**Washington Information Network (211):** This is a comprehensive information and referral service. Specialists assess callers' needs and direct them to appropriate programs and services.

**Reporting Child Abuse:** 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276). This is Washington State's toll-free, 24 hour, 7 day-a-week hotline that will connect you directly to the appropriate local office to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Questions that will be asked when you call:

1. The name, address and age of the child.
2. The name and address of the child's parent, guardian or other persons having custody of the child.
3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect.
4. Any evidence of previous incidences.
5. Any other information which may be helpful in establishing the cause of the child's abuse or neglect and the identity of the perpetrator.

You do not need to have all of the above information when you call to make a report, but the more accurate information you can provide, the better equipped the offices will be to assess the child's risk.

**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** These are numbers to call if you need help:

- 800-562-6025 — Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline
- 800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) — The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Please visit this website for advice on what to expect when you call a helpline, visit a shelter or talk to a legal advocate: <http://www.wscadv.org/getHelpNow.cfm>

### Child Support Information from DSHS:

- For general information and services related to child support go to: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/>
- The DSHS Division of Child Support Quick Help Guide can be found at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/esa/dcs/DCSQuickHelpGuide2.pdf>

**Nurse-Family Partnership:** NFP provides case management to young, first-time mothers through regular visits from a public health nurse from pregnancy through the child's second birthday. The program also provides medical, health, and family planning information, and helps mothers to access available social benefits. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/>

Check your county below for your local Nurse-Family Partnership.

**Planned Parenthood:** 1-800-230-PLAN (7526). General services offered:

- Abortion Services
- Birth Control Services
- Emergency Contraception
- General Health Care
- HIV Testing
- HPV & Hepatitis Vaccines
- LGBT Services
- Men's Health Services
- Patient Education
- Pregnancy Testing, Options & Services
- STD Testing & Treatment
- Women's Health Services

Visit <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/findCenter.asp?s=WA&p=0&o=1&c=0> to find out about services offered by your local center, make an appointment or find directions.

A list of centers is included with an address and phone number. Please note that some numbers cover more than one center. You can still make an appointment either online or over the phone by calling either the number listed with your center or 1-800-230-PLAN (7526).

To find out how the costs of this service and how it can be used with your Medicare or other health care benefits please visit: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppgnw/about-our-fees-23156.htm>

# Resources by County

## Benton County

### Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network

(509) 946-1190  
636 Jadwin Ave, Suite B  
Richland, WA 99352

### Planned Parenthood/Kennewick Health Center

(866) 904-7721  
7426 West Bonnie Place  
Kennewick, WA 99336

## Chelan County

### Family Planning of Chelan-Douglas Counties

(509) 662-2013  
900 Ferry St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Call in at 7:45 am Monday – Friday to schedule their same day appointment. If you need a refill, pregnancy test or are concerned about exposure to a sexually transmitted disease or infection, you can come in anytime between 8:00-5:00 as a walk-in. Please remember that if you are a ‘walk-in’ your wait time can vary. Photo ID needed.

## Clark County

### Planned Parenthood - (888) 875-7820

Salmon Creek, Vancouver Center  
2105 NE 129th Street, Suite 105  
Vancouver, WA 98686

Vancouver Center  
5500 NE 109th Court Suite A  
Vancouver, WA 98662

### Nurse-Family Partnership

### Clark County Public Health Department

(Also covers Klickitat County)

(360) 997-8440  
1601 East Fourth Plain Boulevard  
Vancouver, WA 98661

## Douglas County

### Family Planning of Chelan-Douglas Counties

(509) 662-2013  
900 Ferry St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Call in at 7:45 am Monday – Friday to schedule your same day appointment. If you need a refill, pregnancy test or are concerned about exposure to a sexually transmitted disease or infection, you can come in anytime between 8:00-5:00 as a walk-in. Please remember that if you are a ‘walk-in’ your wait time can vary. Photo ID needed.

## Grant County

### Family Planning of Grant County

(866) 766-9877

1402 Craig St

Moses Lake, WA 98837

## Island County

### Planned Parenthood/Oak Harbour Health Center

(800) 230-7526

3159 N Goldie Road, PO Box 837

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

## Jefferson County

### Nurse-Family Partnership - Jefferson County

(360) 385-9424

615 Sheridan

Port Townsend, WA 98368

## King County

### Nurse-Family Partnership - (206) 296-3313, WA 98121

#### Seattle Office

(206) 296-3313

2124 4th Avenue

#### Kent Office

(206) 296-3313

13210 SE 240th Street

Kent, WA 98042

#### White Center

(206) 296-3313

10821 8th Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98146

### First Steps

(206) 296-4600

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/famplan/services/fsprenatal.aspx>

FS provides services to low-income pregnant women. Under the program, you can meet with a social worker who will refer you to services, including home visits from a public health nurse, diet and nutrition advice, counseling, or maternity case management. After your baby is born, the program provides you access to family planning services and birth control.

### Moms Plus

(206) 296-4755

This service serves low-income pregnant and parenting mothers. The program provides access to health care and related services, including case management by a public health nurse or social worker, coordination of substance abuse treatment services, referrals to community resources, legal advocacy, nutrition advice, perinatal outreach, and infant mortality prevention.

### **Perinatal Treatment Services**

(206) 223-1300

PTS operates an intensive 60-day inpatient program for pregnant or parenting adolescent girls with alcohol or drug abuse problems.

### **Teen Health Clinics**

(206) 296-4600

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/locations/teenclinics.aspx>

Teen Health Clinics are located throughout King County, provide education and services for birth control, pregnant and parenting teens, physical exams, STD education, alcohol, drug and mental health services.

### **Planned Parenthood – (800) 230-7526**

#### Bellevue Health Center

1420 156th Avenue NE #C  
Bellevue, WA 98007

#### Seattle Health Center

2001 E Madison  
Seattle, WA 98122

#### Federal Way Health Center

1105 S 348th Street #B103  
Federal Way, WA 98003

#### University District Health Center, Seattle

4500 9th Ave NE #324  
Seattle, WA 98105

#### Issaquah Health Center

75 NW Dogwood Street, Suite B  
Issaquah, WA 98027

#### University District Roosevelt Health Center

5020 Roosevelt Way NE  
Unit 1  
Seattle, WA 98105

#### Kent Valley Health Center

10056 SE 240th #A  
Kent, WA 98031

#### West Seattle Health Center

9641 28th Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98126

#### Kenmore Northshore Health Center

6610 NE 181st #2  
Kenmore, WA 98028

## **Kitsap County**

### **Planned Parenthood - (800) 230-526**

Bremerton Health Center  
623 NE Riddell Road Suite 103  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Silverdale Health Center  
10030 Silverdale Way Suite 106  
Silverdale, WA 98383

## **Kittitas County**

### **Planned Parenthood/Ellensburg Health Center**

(866) 904-7721  
613 North Pine Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

## **Klickitat County**

### **Nurse-Family Partnership Clark County Public Health Department**

(Also covers Klickitat County)  
(360) 997-8440  
1601 East Fourth Plain Boulevard  
Vancouver, WA 98661

## **Lewis County**

### **Planned Parenthood/Centralia Health Center**

(800) 230-7526  
1020 W Main Street  
Centralia, WA 98531

## **Mason County**

### **Planned Parenthood/Shelton Health Center**

(800) 230-7526  
2505 Olympic Hwy N, #400  
Shelton, WA 98584

## Pierce County

### Community Health Care Clinics

(253) 597-4550

These Clinics offer comprehensive medical and dental care to low-income persons throughout Pierce County. Maternity support services include prenatal care, pregnancy and infant care education, delivery at a local hospital, and referrals to community programs and services through the baby's first birthday.

### Family Support Centers

(253) 798-4608 or (866) 727-6403

<http://www.tpchd.org/health-wellness-1/pregnancy-parenting/family-support-centers/>

Family Support Centers are located throughout Pierce County, offer a wide range of services including parenting classes, support groups, and home visits. They can also help families find resources for food, clothing, and housing.

### Nurse-Family Partnership

(253) 798-3539

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
3629 South D Street  
Tacoma, WA 98418

### Planned Parenthood - (800) 230-7526

#### Puyallup Health Center

702-30th Ave SW  
Puyallup, WA 98373

#### Tacoma Health Center

813 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Tacoma, WA 98405

#### University Place Express Health Center

2607 Bridgeport Way  
Suite 2-G  
University Place, WA 98465

## San Juan County

### Planned Parenthood/Friday Harbour Clinic

(360) 378-6010

535 Market St, Ste E  
P.O. Box 1121  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

## Skagit County

**Nurse-Family Partnership**  
Skagit County Public Health  
(360) 336-9383  
700 South 2nd Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

**Planned Parenthood/Mt. Vernon Clinic**  
(360) 848-1744  
900 E College Way #120  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

## Snohomish County

**Community Health Care Clinics**  
(253) 597-4550  
CHCC offers comprehensive medical and dental care to low-income persons throughout Pierce County. Maternity support services include prenatal care, pregnancy and infant care education, delivery at a local hospital, and referrals to community programs and services through the baby's first birthday.

**Nurse-Family Partnership**  
(425) 775-6070  
14 E Casino Rd  
Everett, WA 98208

**Family Support Centers**  
(253) 798-6557  
<http://www.childrenstrust.org/PierceCountyFamilySupportCenters.html>  
FSPs are located throughout Pierce County and offer a wide range of services including parenting classes, support groups, and home visits. They can also help families find resources for food, clothing, and housing.

### Planned Parenthood - (800) 230-7526

Everett Health Center  
1509 32nd St., PO Box 1051  
Everett, WA 98206

Marysville Health Center  
10210 State Ave.  
Marysville, WA 98271

Lynnwood Health Center  
19505 76th Ave W. 200  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

## Spokane County

### **Nurse-Family Partnership**

Spokane Regional Health District  
(509) 324-1621  
1101 W College Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99201

### **Planned Parenthood - (509) 326-2142**

Francis Clinic, Spokane  
1925 East Francis  
Spokane, WA 99207

Indiana Health Center, Spokane  
123 E Indiana Ave Suite 100  
Spokane, WA 99207

Valley Health Center, Spokane  
10525 E. Trent  
Spokane, WA 99206

Cheney Express Clinic  
301 Second Street  
Cheney, WA 99004

## Thurston County

### **Nurse-Family Partnership**

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services  
(360) 867-2544  
412 Lilly Road NE  
Olympia, WA 98506

### **Planned Parenthood/Olympia Health Center**

(800) 230-7526 402 Legion Way, Suite 201  
Olympia, WA 98501

## Walla Walla County

### **Planned Parenthood - Walla Walla**

(866) 904-7721  
828 South First Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

## Whatcom County

### **Planned Parenthood - Bellingham Clinic**

(360) 734-9095  
1530 Ellis Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

## Whitman County

### **Planned Parenthood/Pullman Health Center**

(509) 326-2142  
1205 SE Professional Mall Blvd. Suite 105  
P.O. Box 128  
Pullman, WA 99163

## Yakima County

### **Nurse-Family Partnership**

Children's Village  
(509) 574-3200  
3801 Kern Road  
Yakima, WA 98902

### **Planned Parenthood**

#### Yakima (1)

(509) 454-4338  
1002 N 16th Ave,  
Yakima WA 98902

#### Yakima (2)

(509) 454-4338  
1117 Tieton Drive  
Yakima, WA 98902

#### Sunnyside

(866) 904-7721  
2934 Covey Lane  
Mail Only: PO Box 924, Sunnyside  
Sunnyside, WA 98944

## Endnotes

1. As of November 2011, healthcare providers are available to give pregnancy tests for free at the health care clinic at Echo Glen detention facility.
2. 45 CFR 164.502(g) and 164.524; *Smith v. Seibly*, 72 Wn.2d 16 (1967); see also Columbia Legal Services, “Providing Health Care to Minors Under Washington Law,” (available at: <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org>).
3. RCW 70.02.050 and *State v Koome* 530 P.2d 260 (1975)
4. RCW 9.02.100(1)
5. *State v Koome* 530 P.2d 260 (1975) and RCW 9.02.100(1)
6. RCW 13.40.0357 Option A
7. RCW 13.40.0357 Option B
8. RCW 13.40.020(16)
9. RCW 13.40.165
10. RCW 13.40.080 & RCW 13.40.085
11. *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97 (1976)
12. *State v Koome* 530 P.2d 260 (1975)
13. *Ibid*
14. A dependent child is one who has been abandoned; is abused or neglected; or has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately caring for him/her. RCW 13.34.030(5).
15. RCW 13.34.090. This statute specifies that if you cannot afford an attorney, one shall be appointed to you.
16. RCW 13.34.130 (3)
17. RCW 26.10.032
18. For example, if you hope to have custody of your baby returned to you after you complete alcohol treatment, or gain permanent housing, you can ask to have that written into the court order that grants non-parental custody to another person.
19. RCW 13.34.180
20. RCW 13.34.200
21. RCW 13.34.132
22. Chapter 13.34 RCW
23. RCW 13.34.090
24. RCW 26.18.020 (4)
25. RCW 13.34.160
26. RCW 26.18.040; Chapter 388-14A WAC
27. RCW 26.18.020 (4)
28. <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/abuseReq.asp?2>



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