

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF ARY CONNECTIONS PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to Snohomish County Juvenile ARY CONNECTIONS Program. The ARY CONNECTIONS Program supports substance abuse treatment to eligible drug and alcohol involved at risk youth who desire to break the cycle of substance abuse and change the circumstances in their lives. This handbook provides information and expectations for the parent/guardian and youth of the ARY CONNECTIONS Program.

Please read the handbook carefully.

Familiarity with its contents will help you understand the program and decrease confusion.

ARY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

ARY CONNECTIONS program is a volunteer Snohomish County Specialty Court to assist families and youth, identified with substance abuse concerns, in navigating the At Risk Youth (ARY) process and community based interventions. ARY CONNECTIONS is a partnership between the Judge, Juvenile Probation Counselor, Chemical Dependency Treatment, Community, and the family. ARY CONNECTIONS focuses on engagement in substance abuse treatment, strength based behavior modification to reduce at-risk behavior and increase public safety in the community, increase in family efficacy, and enhancing the family's connection with the community.

The goals of the program are to:

1. Provide therapeutic interventions to reduce youth substance abuse and at-risk behavior.
2. Reduce the population of at risk youth transitioning into the Juvenile Justice Criminal system.
3. Empower families to create partnerships with community resources to increase family efficacy.
4. Advocacy for community engagement and participation in pro-social activities to promote and strengthen family and social relationships (i.e. mentoring, educational, sports, music, art, youth programs).
5. Reduce/eliminate exposure to detention.
6. Reduce the length and amount of refiled ARY petitions by connecting families to therapeutic and community interventions.
7. Provide families with assistance in navigating the ARY Petition process.
8. Provide expedited services in the ARY contempt process.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ARY CONNECTIONS COURT

ARY CONNECTIONS targets youth 13-16 years of age who have been identified as high needs by a substance abuse assessment tool; low risk as defined by at risk behavior criteria in the ARY petition (RCW 13.32A.031), and criminal referrals including pending or previous Diversion contracts in Juvenile Court. Youth with pending or previous misdemeanor offenses may be considered on a case by case basis. While the target age is 13-16 years of age, youth under 18 years of age meeting the above mentioned criteria are also eligible to participate in ARY CONNECTIONS. No felony offenses.

FUNDING OF TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ARY CONNECTIONS

ARY CONNECTIONS provides assistance in facilitating enrollment in treatment services.

Payment of treatment services will depend on your funding source. Treatment services will explore the options for funding source in the order listed below.

- 1) Insurance- Any deductible and co-pay your insurance company requires is your responsibility.
- 2) State Insurance Plans/medical coupons- for qualifying individuals.
- 3) ARY CONNECTIONS funds may only be accessed when other funding sources are not available and services are provided with contracting treatment agencies.

A parent/guardian is required (by the treatment agency) to accompany his or her child to the treatment intake appointment. At that time, most agencies require the following information:

- The current medical insurance card under which you are covered (private or state insurance).
- In the event you have no insurance, you must bring a valid driver's license, social security card (for parent and child), and pay stubs for all family members living in the household.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

The involvement of parents/guardians is critical in the success of treatment. Research shows positive involvement by parents/guardians can make a difference in a youth staying substance-free. Parents/guardians assist their youth in ARY CONNECTIONS Court by complying with the following requirements:

- Participating in development of a case plan and completion plan with the ARY CONNECTIONS Probation Counselor.
- Participating in family and community activities and in family treatment sessions as recommended by the youth's treatment provider.
- Attending all court hearings and maintaining regular contact with the ARY CONNECTIONS Probation Counselor and treatment provider.
- Supporting the youth's sober activities at home and in the community.
- Maintaining a clean and sober living environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Because of the confidential nature of the ARY CONNECTIONS, participants will be asked to sign a release of information, allowing the sharing of information between ARY CONNECTIONS Team Members, treatment services, and school programs.

Your privacy is respected in ARY CONNECTIONS and staff will make every effort to protect your privacy.

Drug abuse treatment records are protected under Federal regulations governing the confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse, medical, and therapeutic records and cannot be disclosed without your written consent. Participants are also expected to respect the rules of confidentiality and not discuss outside of treatment group or ARY CONNECTIONS any issues that may be disclosed during these proceedings.

ARY CONNECTIONS COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Program completion is achieved when the youth is engaged in substance abuse treatment, the parent perceives an increase in family efficacy, and the youth and family have achieved the goals of the completion plan. Upon successful completion, the ARY Petition will be dismissed.

ARY CONNECTIONS PARTICIPANT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parent/guardian and youth will participate in an interview appointment and follow up appointments with the ARY CONNECTIONS Probation Counselor.
2. Youth will complete a drug and alcohol assessment as scheduled by ARY CONNECTIONS.
3. Parent/guardian and youth will attend the scheduled hearing dates.
4. Parent/guardian will not consume or be under the influence of drugs/alcohol in the presence of the youth and will support a clean and sober living environment.
5. Any prescribed medication in the home must be able to be locked in a safe place.

The purpose of ARY CONNECTIONS is to provide the youth and families with support from treatment and community interventions. ARY CONNECTIONS is a unique collaboration between the Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, Attorney, Treatment Agencies, and families. ARY CONNECTIONS takes a holistic approach and develops individual treatment plans to address each youth and family's concerns. The ARY CONNECTIONS program expects the youth and family to be honest about abuse/addiction concerns and completely honest with the Judge, Probation, and Treatment. Parents/guardians are an integral part of the ARY CONNECTIONS process and are encouraged to provide weekly updates on the youth's behavior and progress. The parent/guardian's complete cooperation and participation is necessary and required for the

successful completion of ARY CONNECTIONS.

COURTROOM BEHAVIOR

You will be expected to maintain appropriate behavior during ARY CONNECTIONS Court hearings and while in the Courthouse. Attendance at scheduled ARY CONNECTIONS Court hearings is considered part of the program and participants are encouraged to observe the entire court proceedings to support other families and youth.

- **Dress appropriately and modestly for Court: No clothing that represents the drug or alcohol culture, no violence or weapons; and no hats or do-rags, scarves or hoods are to be worn.**
- **Electronic devices and phones must be turned off.**
- **No sleeping in the Courtroom.**
- **No eating or drinking is allowed in the Courtroom.**
- **No gum allowed in the Courtroom.**
- **If you address the Judge, please address him or her as Your Honor or Judge.**

URINALYSIS TESTING

The observed collection and scientific testing of urine for drugs and alcohol is an important part of the ARY CONNECTIONS program. The ARY CONNECTIONS program uses the results of these tests to determine whether or not youth are using drugs and alcohol while in the program. If a youth fails to provide a sample for testing, misses, dilutes, or adulterates/manipulates an UA sample, it will be treated as a positive test and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

Youth must not have the following:

- Poppy seeds in any form.
- No energy drinks.
- Any mood or mind altering medication without prior notification to your physician that the youth is being treated for chemical dependency and contacting the youth's treatment provider **prior** to use.
- Any over the counter medications such as/but not limited to Nyquil or Sudafed without prior approval from your physician.
- Natural or herbal remedies or supplements such as those commonly sold in health food stores, without prior approval from your physician.
- Large amounts of water prior to submitting a sample. **Diluted specimens are treated as POSITIVE**

IF A YOUTH RECEIVES A POSITIVE UA RESULT BECAUSE THEY INGESTED ANY OF THE ABOVE SUBSTANCES AND THEY FAILED TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS, THEY MAY BE SANCTIONED.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

As a general rule, participants in ARY CONNECTIONS program are expected to be drug free, including the use of mind and mood-altering prescription medications. If a physician does prescribe medication for you:

- a) It is advisable to inform the treating Doctor the youth is being treated for chemical dependency, and are required to abstain from mind and mood-altering medications. The Doctor can then make decisions with the full knowledge of their situation, and:*
- b) If the Doctor prescribes any narcotic or mind and mood altering medications, you must then contact your treatment provider and ARY CONNECTIONS Probation Counselor immediately to let them know exactly what medications were prescribed.*

INCENTIVES

The ARY CONNECTIONS program may offer incentives for positive behavior modification. Incentives may include but not limited to gift cards, praise and encouragement from the team, and connections with community activities. ARY CONNECTIONS will encourage families to explore incentives available

within the home for positive behavior modification.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions are implemented when participants are not in compliance with the At Risk Youth petition and ARY CONNECTIONS program. Sanctions may include but are not limited to writing assignments, pro-social activities, community service work, detention alternatives program, and /or detention. ARY CONNECTIONS will encourage families to explore appropriate consequences within the home for violations.

****Please note that per the laws governing the At-Risk Youth program in Washington State; a youth that is sentenced to a detention alternative or detention must also be given the opportunity to purge out of confinement.***

This means if a youth is sentenced to confinement in secure detention or detention alternatives house arrest program that they must also be given a way to be released from confinement. A purge assignment typically consists of a reading and writing assignment. This assignment is reviewed by detention/probation staff. If the assignment is found to be adequate and is accepted by staff, the youth will be released from custody.

All sanctions are discussed by the youth's Attorney, Probation Counselor and parent and ultimately are at the discretion of the ARY CONNECTIONS Judge.

PRO-SOCIAL

ARY CONNECTIONS encourages positive integration into the community through pro-social, school, mentoring, and social activities. Families are encouraged to support the youth's engagement in positive community activities.

VACATIONS

If your family is planning a vacation, it is requested that you notify the ARY CONNECTIONS Probation Counselor of the vacation in advance.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

CONNECTIONS SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Judge Richard T. Okrent

CONNECTIONS ATTORNEY

Jessica Rosenberg, 425-252-0797

CONNECTIONS SUPERVISOR

Jamie Reed, 425-388-7865

CONNECTIONS PROBATION COUNSELOR

Ron Gaudette, 425-388-7872

CONNECTIONS CONTRACTED TREATMENT AGENCIES

Catholic Community Services

Center for Human Services

PARENT RESOURCE GROUP FACILITATOR

Chuck Bartlett, MA LMHC, Mill Creek Family Services 425-357-9111