

GUARDIANSHIP

Child Dependency Courts

Guardianship is a legal status in which the parents' rights to exercise physical and legal control over a child are suspended and an appropriate individual (guardian) is appointed by the courts to fulfill the parents' responsibility.



TITLE 13

Juvenile Law

RCW 13.36

Guardianship of a minor involved in an **open dependency case**

VS

TITLE 11

Guardianship Law

Article 2 of RCW 11.130

Limited guardianship of a minor

[Full Comparison Chart](#)

Title 13.36 was created in order to “create a separate guardianship chapter to establish permanency for children in foster care through the appointment of a guardian and dismissal of the dependency.”

HB 1747

Effective June 2022

- Requires **relatives remain the priority for placement and permanency** throughout the life of the case.
- **Restrictions around removal** of children from relatives/suitable persons.
- **Increases preference of guardianship as a permanent plan** by requiring caseworkers to discuss guardianship as an alternative to termination of parental rights (TPR) throughout the life of the case with the child's or youth's parents AND caregivers.

CREATED A GOOD CAUSE EXCEPTION FOR TERMINATION FILING
RCW 13.34.145(5)(a)(vii).

[DCYF Permanency Matrix](#)

THE POWER OF KINSHIP

Kinship placements minimize the trauma associated with removal while increasing connections to family and overall child wellbeing.



School mobility was **3.1 times higher** among youth living in foster care, as compared to kinship care.

[Source](#)

Youth living in kinship care have **lower rates** of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use than youth living in foster care.

[Source](#)

Compared to youth in kinship care, youth in foster care were **1.7 times more likely** to say that they had attempted suicide in the past year.

[Source](#)

For questions please contact Family & Youth Justice Programs