

YAKIMA COUNTY CLERK

OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK & EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
128 NORTH SECOND STREET, ROOM 323
YAKIMA WA 98901

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Minors / Juveniles ~

Where is the Juvenile Division of the Yakima County Clerk's Office?

The Juvenile Division of the Yakima County Clerk's Office is located on the main floor of the **Juvenile Court Facility, 1728 Jerome Avenue, Yakima WA 98901**. We are open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Juvenile Division is closed for lunch from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. We are closed for all legal holidays.

For additional information please select one of the links below:

[Office Hours](#)

[Holidays](#)

What kind of cases are heard at the Juvenile Justice Center?

Primarily there are two (2) kinds of matters:

JUVENILE OFFENDER cases – where a person under the age of 18 is suspected of a crime. These matters are public record.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY cases – where Court intervention is requested to insure the positive welfare of dependent minor children. These matters are confidential.

In addition, the following matters are processed through the Juvenile Justice Center:

TRUANCY cases –for a link to Truancy information, click [HERE](#).

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES / AT RISK YOUTH:

The Washington State Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) has programs to assist parents with 'at risk youth', and the Juvenile Courts assist with this.

Please call the DSHS offices directly for further information about these programs at **(509) 225-6500 – in Yakima**, or **(509) 865-1450 in Toppenish or Sunnyside**. The Yakima office is located on the 3rd floor of the DSHS building located at **1002 North 16th Avenue, Yakima WA**.

If your situation warrants such assistance, you may pick up the forms at the DSHS office. **Once your forms are filled out, you will then 'file' them with the Clerk's Office – Juvenile Division at 1728 Jerome Avenue, Yakima WA 98901.**

EMANCIPATION OF A JUVENILE – RCW 13.64.010

A minor who is sixteen (16) years of age or older, and who is a resident of this state, may petition the Superior Court for a declaration of emancipation. See below for instructions and forms or click the link above. Additional information can be obtained below, under the [Emancipation Of A Juvenile](#). [Forms](#) can be obtained at the bottom of this page.

Where do I file documents I want to go in my Court file?

All pleadings are filed at the Clerk's Office. See the top of the page for our address, times of operation and directions. Please remember that you will file your 'original' documents (the ones with an original ink signature) with the Clerk. Any copies you bring with you, you can stamp (we call this 'conforming your copy') with the "Filed" stamp which is at the front counter. You only need to 'conform' the front page (page #1) of each pleading. Please make sure your documents have your case number on the front page, and that they conform to rules regarding size, margins and content of information. The Clerk's staff does not monitor the content of your pleadings, and it is your responsibility to ensure confidential data is submitted to the Clerk in the proper manner.

As a reminder, **Local Court Rule (Cr 7) requires your Motions and other papers are filed** with the Clerk **at least 5 days prior** to the day you (the moving party) desires the matter to be heard in court. This is to assist with getting your pleadings processed, forwarded to the Court file and on to the Judge for review prior to your hearing.

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Can you help me fill out my papers?

No. The Clerk's staff is not allowed to assist you in filling out your legal papers.

The only exception to this is for the items related to Domestic Violence protection orders.

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EMANCIPATION OF A JUVENILE:

A note about Emancipations: The forms are free. The filing fee is **\$50.00** – cash only – no personal checks, no credit cards and no fee waivers. The forms are to be filled out by the MINOR only, not the parents. **The forms are to be 'filed' at the Yakima County Clerk's Office, 128 North Second Street, Room #323 – 3rd Floor of the Courthouse, Yakima WA.** Hearing dates and times (which the Petitioner sets up) are and **Wednesday at 2:30 P.M.** and will be heard at the **Juvenile Justice Center, 1728 Jerome Avenue, Yakima WA.** **A certified copy of the Petitioner's birth certificate must be attached to the [Petition For Emancipation](#) and will be kept as part of the Court record.**

Power and capacity of emancipated minor.

(1) An emancipated minor(s) shall be considered to have the power and capacity of an adult, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. A minor shall be considered emancipated for the purposes of, but not limited to:

- (a) The termination of parental obligations of financial support, care, supervision, and any other obligation the parent may have by virtue of the parent-child relationship, including obligations imposed because of marital dissolution;
 - (b) The right to sue or be sued in his or her own name;
 - (c) The right to retain his or her own earnings;
 - (d) The right to establish a separate residence or domicile;
 - (e) The right to enter into nonvoidable contracts;
 - (f) The right to act autonomously, and with the power and capacity of an adult, in all business relationships, including but not limited to property transactions;
 - (g) The right to work, and earn a living, subject only to the health and safety regulations designed to protect those under age of majority regardless of their legal status; and
 - (h) The right to give informed consent for receiving health care services.
- (2) An emancipated minor shall not be considered an adult for:
- (a) The purposes of the adult criminal laws of the state unless the decline of jurisdiction procedures contained in RCW 13.40.110 are used or the minor is tried in criminal court pursuant to *RCW 13.04.030(1)(e)(iv);
 - (b) the criminal laws of the state when the emancipated minor is a victim and the age of the victim is an element of the offense; or
 - (c) those specific constitutional and statutory age requirements regarding voting, use of alcoholic beverages, possession of firearms, and other health and safety regulations relevant to the minor because of the minor's age.
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Petition for emancipation -- Filing fees.

- (1) A petition for emancipation shall be signed and verified by the petitioner, and shall include the following information:
- (a) The full name of the petitioner, the petitioner's birth date, and the state and county of birth;
 - (b) a certified copy of the petitioner's birth certificate;
 - (c) the name and last known address of the petitioner's parent or parents, guardian, or custodian;
 - (d) the petitioner's present address, and length of residence at that address;
 - (e) a declaration by the petitioner indicating that he or she has the ability to manage his or her financial affairs, including any supporting information; and
 - (f) a declaration by the petitioner indicating that he or she has the ability to manage his or

her personal, social, educational, and non-financial affairs, including any supporting information.

Service of petition -- Notice -- Date of hearing.

The petitioner shall serve a copy of the filed petition and notice of hearing on the petitioner's parent or parents, guardian, or custodian at least fifteen days before the emancipation hearing. No summons shall be required. Service shall be waived if proof is made to the court that the address of the parent or parents, guardian, or custodian is unavailable or unascertainable. The petitioner shall also serve notice of the hearing on the department if the petitioner is subject to dependency disposition order under RCW 13.34.130. The hearing shall be held no later than sixty days after the date on which the petition is filed.

Hearing on petition.

(1) The hearing on the petition shall be before a judicial officer, sitting without a jury. Prior to the presentation of proof the judicial officer shall determine whether:

- (a) The petitioning minor understands the consequences of the petition regarding his or her legal rights and responsibilities;
- (b) a Guardian Ad Litem should be appointed to investigate the allegations of the petition and file a report with the court.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "judicial officer" means:

- (a) A judge;
- (b) a Superior Court Commissioner of a unified family court if the county operates a unified family court; or
- (c) any Superior Court Commissioner if the county does not operate a unified family court.

The term does not include a judge pro tempore.

Emancipation decree -- Certified copy -- Notation of emancipated status.

(1) The court shall grant the petition for emancipation, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, if the petitioner proves the following facts by clear and convincing evidence:

- (a) That the petitioner is sixteen years of age or older;
- (b) that the petitioner is a resident of the state;
- (c) that the petitioner has the ability to manage his or her financial affairs; and
- (d) that the petitioner has the ability to manage his or her personal, social, educational, and non-financial affairs.

(2) A parent, guardian, custodian, or in the case of a dependent minor, the department, may oppose the petition for emancipation. The court shall deny the petition unless it finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that denial of the grant of emancipation would be detrimental to the interests of the minor.

(3) Upon entry of a decree of emancipation by the court the petitioner shall be given a certified copy of the decree. The decree shall instruct the petitioner to obtain a Washington driver's license or a Washington identification card and direct the department of licensing make a notation of the emancipated status on the license or identification card.

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EMANCIPATION FORMS:

[Petition](#)

[Notice Of Hearing](#)

[Return Of Service](#)

[Decree Of Emancipation](#)

[Order Appointing Guardian](#)

[Order Denying Emancipation](#)

Please print all of the above forms, so you will be prepared for potential requests by the Judge hearing your matter.

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