

Cost Benefit Analysis

Proposed Amendment: Amendment to **214-RICR-60-00-1** to change the division title from *Division of Juvenile Correctional Services* to *Division of Youth Development*.

Description and Purpose of the Proposed Amendment

This amendment updates the division title referenced throughout the regulation from “Division of Juvenile Correctional Services” to “Division of Youth Development.” The change is administrative in nature and does not alter the substance, scope, or implementation of the regulation.

The purpose of the amendment is to align the division title with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families’ mission and statutory focus on rehabilitation, treatment, and positive youth development, rather than punishment. The current title reflects legacy terminology that predates the current organizational and mission framework of the Department.

Historical Context

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families was established by Public Law 1979, chapter 248, which transferred juvenile corrections functions from the Department of Corrections to DCYF, as codified in R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-72, including § 42-72-17. Since that time, the Rhode Island Training School has operated under DCYF with a statutory mandate emphasizing treatment, rehabilitation, and care in the least restrictive environment. The continued use of the term “Juvenile Correctional Services” reflects an earlier corrections-based structure and is no longer consistent with the Department’s mission or governance.

Costs

There is no fiscal impact associated with this amendment.

- The amendment does not create new requirements or obligations.
- There are no additional compliance, staffing, training, or operational costs to the State.
- Regulated entities and stakeholders will not incur any costs as a result of this change.

Any minor administrative updates necessary to reflect the title change can be absorbed within existing resources.

Benefits

The proposed amendment provides the following benefits:

- Aligns regulatory terminology with DCYF’s rehabilitative mission and statutory purpose.
- Improves clarity and consistency across DCYF regulations, policies, and communications.
- Reduces confusion caused by outdated corrections-focused terminology.
- Supports trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate framing for youth in DCYF custody.

Impact on Small Businesses

This amendment has no impact on small businesses. It does not impose new requirements, compliance obligations, or costs on providers, vendors, or contractors.

Alternatives Considered

The Department considered retaining the existing division title. This alternative was not selected because the current terminology is outdated and inconsistent with DCYF's mission, organizational structure, and the rehabilitative framework reflected throughout the regulation.

Conclusion

This amendment is administrative and non-substantive, has no fiscal impact, and improves clarity and mission alignment. The benefits of updating the division title outweigh any minimal administrative effort required to implement the change.