

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Training School
(214-RICR-60-00-1)

Rule Identifier: 214-RICR-60-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: February 3, 2026

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

End of Public Comment: March 5, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL § 42-72-5

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

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.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 5, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Sarah St. Jacques
Department of Children, Youth, and Families
101 Friendship Street
Providence, RI 02903
sarah.stjacques@dcyf.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: February 18, 2026

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: The Da Vinci Center
470 Charles Street
Providence, RI, 02904

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-272-7474 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

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.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.