

Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic

August Newsletter

Welcome to August from all of us at the Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic! This is an exciting month for us as we move into new offices for both the administration of Fulcrum and the Fulcrum Interchange. You'll find more details about our move in this newsletter. It is a pleasure to work with and for all of you. Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to sharing this exciting chapter with you.



SAVE ONE PROGRAM WARNS OF STUDENT GROOMING

Fulcrum's Sexual Exploitation Prevention Program (SAVE ONE) is gearing up for the start of the new school year for high school and middle school students throughout Eastern Washington. Presentations are planned in various schools, while parent organizations continue to seek information concerning methods of protecting children, ages 12 to 18. In 2026, there is an added problem, young adults in their late 20s are now experiencing trauma from the incidents of more than a decade ago.

Many parents didn't grow up with online video games that allowed them to chat with strangers from across the world. It is a relative recent phenomenon. But as the upper end of Gen Z ages into their late 20s, there is a rise in grown-ups who experienced online grooming and are now on the other side of it.

Recently, in Parenting in a Tech World, an anonymous woman in her mid 30s came forward with her experiences as a child who was groomed in Minecraft online chatrooms. Her story is powerful because it's told by an adult to other adults, featuring personal experiences. It sheds light on what goes on in the head of a kid in these situations, framed with the wisdom of mature thought.

- **The Beginning** – She was groomed for two years between the ages of 10 and 12 by predators on a Minecraft roleplaying server.
- **Why she turned to Games with Chat** – She was homeschooled in a quiet area with limited abilities to meet new people which led to the need for connection. Multiplayer games mean anyone in the world can join them, including adults who prey on children.
- **“Not My Kid” Syndrome** is a huge Danger – The “my kid knows better” or “my kid is smart enough to know what’s bad” allowed her to get to where she was. She admits that she lied about her age because she craved people taking an interest, seeming to be popular, and having friends.
- **Kids Seeking Connections** – Children assume the best in people, thus making them a target. She says they were only people who were there to let me ask questions, to talk about my feelings, and to care about me.

- **Emotional Scars** – The shame and guilt surrounding grooming may leave larger scars than the grooming itself. Many times, adults roleplay sexual scenarios and convince the participants into sending photos of themselves to prove they are real. She admits that she then began to feel the worst she had ever felt, allowing herself to believe she had disgraced her family, and nobody would ever love her again.



- **What to Do** – The Fulcrum Sexual Exploitation Prevention Program is designed to provide children and parents information to protect them from problems today, and in the future. If you have a question, or would like a presentation, please contact Jaclyn Coyle at the Fulcrum Office, 509-838-2799. You and your child deserve to be safe from online groomers.

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Interchange Applies for Grant

The Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Interchange Program has applied for a three year grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to support families. Specifically, the grant would provide \$200,000.00 per year over the next three years to assist in the operation of supervised visitation services to parents and children when a parent has been removed from the opportunity of spending time with their children without a supervised format. The grant will allow for funding through the next three governmental fiscal years.

As part of the grant, Fulcrum has agreed to provide up to 16 hours of training annually for Superior Court personnel and court related child protection personnel on the dynamics of domestic abuse, violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The training will include the information on perpetrator behavior, risk factors and issues related to the needs of the victims. Some of the information will come directly from the Fulcrum sexual exploitation prevention program taught in middle and junior high schools throughout the state.

The funds should assist in the provision of 1,800 hours of service during each of the three years of the grant. Fulcrum has operated a supervised visitation/safe exchange facility with a sliding fee scale since 1998. Currently, it serves clients with visitation and exchanges totalling to approximately 450 hours each month. Grant dollars will focus on those individuals involved in domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and stalking or dating violence.

The decision on the grant will be made in September. The Fulcrum staff thanks the Spokane Superior Court for agreeing to the potential for training and their assistance with grant content.

Fulcrum's New Offices, New Image

The new offices of the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic are up and running at 1212 North Washington Street in room 306. Last month saw a dividing of specific services through two new offices of the Fulcrum Institute DRC. Specifically, the mediation and training portion of the operation is now housed in room 306 and the Interchange supervised visitation activities are found in room 325. Signage has been changed in the building to reflect the locations.

Additionally, there has been a name change for Fulcrum. The organization is now known as the Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic. The change was made in an effort for Fulcrum to be a more recognized entity within the Resolution Washington mediation organization which serves the 20 dispute resolution centers in Washington State.

Finally, the organization has a brand new logo which modernizes its symbol which has been used for the last 33 years.



Sharing the Children

The Fulcrum organization continues to provide the Sharing Children classes on Wednesday evenings. The three-hour Superior Court mandated program is now taught in its new classroom facility twice each month. Course content continues to focus on family law court room functions, parenting plans, and child support as well as real life scenarios facing children as they watch their parents go through a dissolution process. Total cost for the program is \$30.00. Reservations for the class may be made by calling 509-838-2799. There is a \$5.00 reservation fee.

Mediation Financial Assistance

The Fulcrum organization still has financial assistance for those who may need economic assistance to pay for mediations, classes, or supervised visitation. The fiscal calendar year for the assistance grant ends on September 30, 2026. During the months of August and September, Fulcrum has the ability to provide nearly \$5,000.00 a month in fiscal assistance to clients who may find themselves needing some extra financial assistance. The requirements to access the funds are relatively easy. When inquiring about services, a participant must only show some proof of income status. Grant dollars will be provided upon registration for service. Readers of this newsletter are reminded there is money available. Questions concerning grant assistance may be referred to the organization's intake specialist.

Probation and Anger Management

Fulcrum is pleased to announce that its five session, 10 hour, Anger Management course is full for the month of August. The program is available through Court order, or through private reservation. For those who are involved in taking the class through court order, or through Spokane County Probation, the course may lead to a continued for dismissal order. The five sessions deal with individual topics such as emotional responses, the benefits of anger, assertive communication, self-concepts, stress, and the positives of anger. There is a fee for the course and reservations are made through the Intake Specialist.

Welcome Back Lauren ✨

All clients, existing and those who may seek services, should be pleased this month as Lauren has returned to the role of Office Manager/Intake Specialist. She has held that position for over a year, and she was gone from her position for about three weeks. She is back now providing the same quality service she is known for by each and every client.



Alas, the days are getting shorter. I just want all of the Interchange participants to know that as the days get shorter, there may be some changes in offsite times. Please check with your supervisor or the Director to see if there have been any changes. I know that the smokey conditions have caused some problems and I want every parent and child to enjoy their time at the Interchange.

The Reviews Are In

The new facilities in room 325 of the Rock Point Building have been open for the last 30 days and the reviews are positive. Children and parents have enjoyed the increased space, the game room, the addition of new toys and books, and the office layout for greetings and ease of documentation. Please continue to provide staff members information on your thoughts as to how the Interchange may be made better and more accessible.

Four Team Leads Operation

Interchange Director Savanna has announced the there are new members to the organizational team leading the Interchange. The team consists of Alisha, Sarah, Jessica and Savanna. Each of the identified members of the

team have specific duties to ensure parents and children are interactive, proper records are kept, and the facility is welcoming for every person using the facility. If there is any problem with a visit, any of the four individuals may be contacted.

Notes for Court

Should either the Residential Parent or the Non-Residential Parent need copies of their supervised visitation notes or their communication notes for Court, a simple form with your signature is required. Once received, your visit notes and communication notes will be copied, provided to the Court and to each of the parents. Your notes may have an impact with the judge in reducing or increasing your parenting time in our facility. The process of compiling your notes may take up to two weeks, so if your notes are needed for a court hearing, please plan ahead. There is a charge for the process.

New Faces

You may have noticed some new faces among the individuals who are providing supervision in the child/parent sessions. During the month of June, the Interchange added three new supervisors and one more may be added this month. Supervisors come from all walks of life; education, social services, child care, health environments, customer service/marketing, and higher education. The interchange is always looking for individuals to serve you better.



Riverfront Park Playground

Parents are reminded of the Riverfront Park playground that is within walking distance of the Interchange. The area features slides, climbing areas, a giant sandbox, and plenty of room for running, jumping, and enjoying life. The walk only takes 10 minutes each way.



Language at the Interchange

A small number of children at the Interchange have taken to the use of language that is not usually said in front of the general public. Fulcrum supervisors have all heard the words before, but usually not from six, seven, and eight year olds. Supervisors will not correct a child's language to the child, but they will mention it to the parent in an effort to stop that type of language in the facility.

Haven Award

This month's Haven Award goes to staff member, Autumn. She is a teacher and has worked at Fulcrum on the weekends for almost two years. Her personality and dedication to detail allows for every parent and every child to enjoy the time spent at Fulcrum. When you see Autumn, please give her a smile.

THE FULCRUM INSTITUTE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLINIC:

Phone Number: (509) 838-2799

Website: www.fulcrumdispute.org

Questions: Call us today



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