

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the family is the primary source of identity, self-esteem, and support for children and adults and provides a critical foundation for our communities; and

WHEREAS, parents can encounter problems that require attention and assistance to ensure the safety and caring support of their children, and about 7,000 children in Washington state are in out-of-home care at any time; and

WHEREAS, the bond between children, parents, and family members provides the nurturing and security that is critical for personal growth and development into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, because of this important bond, reunification with parents is the best option and preferred outcome for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of parents work hard through the dependency process to improve and grow their parenting skills with the help of social workers, the legal system, and community partners to successfully reunite with their children; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Family Reunification Day is an opportunity to celebrate families who have reunified and all of those who support them;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2023 as

Family Reunification Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state join me in this special observance.

Signed this 19th day of May 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

