

**Whatcom County  
Superior Court Administration -  
Juvenile Division**  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 501 – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Main: (360) 778-5490  
Fax: (360) 778-5491



**Judges**  
David E. Freeman  
Lee Grochmal  
Evan Jones  
Robert E. Olson  
Jennifer Slattery

**Commissioners**  
John All  
Kacie B. Emerick  
Lisa M. Keeler  
Jonathan Richardson  
Ann Vetter-Hansen

**Administrator**  
Stephanie Kraft

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**From:** Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile Court Administrator  
**Subject:** Whatcom County Juvenile Court Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) Program (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)  
**Date:** 07/08/2026

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Enclosed is one (1) original of the Agreement between Whatcom County and Administrative Office of the Courts for your review and signature.

## **Background and Purpose**

This agreement provides funding to support children in being served by court-appointed special advocates (CASA), in dependency matters, RCW 13.34.030(12). Whatcom County Juvenile Court ensures that children have an assigned Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (VGAL), or a staff Guardian ad Litem if a VGAL is not available, in dependency matters. This program was formerly called CASA in Whatcom County. The Court also ensures that the VGAL Program complies with the statutory requirements contained in RCW 13.34.100-107.

## **Funding Amount and Source**

The Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts will reimburse Whatcom County in the amount not to exceed \$84,523.00 to cover wages, professional services, goods, equipment, training and travel, as needed to support VGAL program and staff. Council approval is required, pursuant to WCC 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000 and RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

## **Differences from Previous Contract**

This is a new agreement; and funding for this agreement period (07/01/2026-06/30/2027) will stay the same as provided in the agreement that ended 06/30/2026, Contract No 202509026.

Please contact Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile court Administrator at 5496 or [SKraft@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:SKraft@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.