

**Whatcom County
Superior Court Administration -
Juvenile Division**
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 501 – 5th 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: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile Court Administrator
Subject: Department of Social and Health Services-County Program Agreement for Court Commissioner's Services
Date: 05/21/2026

Enclosed is one (1) original of the County Program Agreement between Whatcom County and Department of Social and Health Services for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County has long contracted with Department of Social and Health Services for reimbursement of a percentage of Superior Court Commissioners time when working civil court cases involving Child Support Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The funds support a Federal Requirement of States to provide an expedited process for adjudicating and concluding these types of cases. This is a federal incentive payment agreement.

Funding Amount and Source

The total contract amount varies each state fiscal year. In 2026, Superior Court Administration could seek reimbursement for up to \$60,000 from Department of Social and Health Services. This is a six-year contract. Council authorization is required pursuant to WCC 03.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000 and RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Differences from Previous Contract

This is a renewal agreement and has no changes from the previous contract ending 06/30/2026, Whatcom County Contract #202111039. As mentioned above, the amount of reimbursement Superior Court Administration is able to seek reimbursement for changes each year. The amount is determined by the Department of Social and Health Services.

Please contact Stephanie Kraft at extension 5496, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.