V. DOMESTIC RULES (LDR)

These rules supersede civil rules unless stated otherwise herein.

Local Domestic Rule 1
GENERAL RULES

A. Applicability. This rule shall apply to proceedings under RCW Title 26 and non-statutory family law proceedings (e.g., committed intimate relationship, defacto parentage, etc.).

B. Update of Address. Each party must update their mailing address with the County Clerk's office immediately upon a change of address. The mailing address provided does not have to be the same as the residence of a party, but it must be an address where the party agrees to receive mail. The change of address must also be mailed or otherwise provided to the opposing party within seventy-two (72) hours of the address change. This requirement is in addition to, not a substitute for, any other Rule or Law regarding notice, including the Relocation Act.

C. Issues Regarding Venue/Jurisdiction. If venue or jurisdiction is an issue, either party may apply to the Court for an expedited hearing on this issue, which shall be heard promptly prior to a hearing on the merits.

D. Hearing Requirement. If a Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) hearing is required, both parties shall complete and file a UCCJEA information form.

1. The parties must also provide a copy to the Domestic Judicial Assistant. See UCCJEA form on the Court's Website.
2. This rule includes Civil Protection Orders per RCW 7.105.085.

E. Automatic Temporary Restraining Order. The Clerk of the Court shall issue an Automatic Temporary Restraining Order in all domestic matters except child support actions. See Automatic Temporary Restraining Order on the Website for an example of the order.

1. *Effective Date.* The petitioner is subject to the order from the time of its entry upon filing of the summons and petition. The petitioner shall cause a copy of the Automatic Temporary Restraining Order to be served on each respondent. Each respondent is subject to the order from the time that it is served.

F. Domestic Case Scheduling Order. When an initial pleading is filed in a new case, the Domestic Judicial Assistant will prepare a Domestic Case Schedule Order, and the Superior Court Clerk will issue and file the Domestic Case Scheduling Order and will provide one copy to the party filing the initial pleading (except for Petitions to Modify Child Support).

1. *Form:* The Domestic Case Scheduling Order (DCSO) shall be in the form available on the Court's Website.

2. *Service.* The party filing the initial pleading shall promptly provide a copy of the Domestic Case Scheduling Order to all other parties within ten (10) days of receiving the same from the Clerk.
3. *Modifying an Existing Case Schedule Order.* The Court, either on motion of a party, or on its own initiative, may modify the Domestic Case Scheduling Order for good cause. The rules for modifying an existing case schedule order are outlined in LCR 16(A).
4. *Mandatory Appearances.* Mandatory court appearances are noted in bold on the Scheduling Order. Failure to appear at a mandatory court appearance could result in an order of default being entered against the non-appearing party, sanctions, terms or other relief as justice may require.
5. *Disclosures.* By the deadline set forth in the Domestic Case Scheduling Order, the parties shall file and serve the opposing party with a copy the following documents:

    a. Proposed Child Support Worksheets (if applicable);
    b. Tax returns and W-2 statements for the past two calendar years;
    c. Partnership and corporate tax returns, if any, for the past two calendar years, to include all schedules and attachments;
    d. Wage stubs for the past six months or since January 1 of the calendar year, whichever period is greater; and
    e. Declaration of Financial Documents must be given to Opposing Party. Failure to file and give to the opposing party or their attorney the Declaration of Financial Documents may subject the non-complying party and/or their attorney to sanctions or other equitable relief.

6. *Compliance.* All parties must comply with the domestic case schedule order.
7. *Adequate Cause Found/Modifications.* The Domestic Judicial Assistant shall issue a Domestic Case Scheduling Order and shall provide copies to the parties, upon establishment of adequate cause for Motions/Petitions to Modify/Change a Parenting Plan/Residential Schedule.

G. Mandatory Parenting Seminars. In all new cases involving children, all parties shall complete a parenting seminar conducted by a Court-approved provider. A list of approved providers may be found on the Court's Website. Parties are not required to attend a seminar together.

1. *Timing.* Parties shall complete an approved parenting seminar prior to entry of a permanent parenting or residential plan and file a copy of the certificate of completion of the course with the Clerk and serve the same on the other party. The Court may waive a party's attendance at such seminar or extend the time required for good cause. Parents are encouraged to complete the parenting seminar as soon as possible following filing of an action which involves children. The Court will not enter final orders regarding children if both parents have not completed the mandatory parenting seminar except for good cause.
2. *Cost.* Each party attending a seminar shall pay a fee charged by the approved provider, which may be waived for indigent parties.

3. *Failure to Comply.* Willful refusal to timely participate in a parenting seminar may constitute contempt and subject the contemnor to terms including but not limited to:

    a. imposition of monetary terms, striking of pleadings, limiting non-complying parent's visitation, or
    b. denial of affirmative relief to a party not in compliance with this Rule.

[Adopted Effective September 1, 2026]

Local Domestic Rule 3
MEDIATION

A. Mediation Required for All Disputed Issues. All disputed issues, including petitions alleging Committed Intimate Relationships, shall be submitted to mandatory mediation except for child support and post-secondary support. Matters involving allegations of domestic violence or child abuse are exempt from the requirement to mediate pursuant to RCW 26.09.016. Mediation shall be completed pursuant to the Domestic Case Scheduling Order. Mediation may be waived only by the Court in a written order after a motion and hearing demonstrating good cause.

B. Attendance. Attendance by the parties at mediation sessions is mandatory. Mediation shall include the parties (and their counsel) only, but may, by written agreement of the parties and the mediator, at least 24 hours before the mediation, include other persons.

C. Declaration of Completion. Within seven (7) days of completion, a declaration of completion shall be filed by the mediator. The mediator shall advise the Court only whether an agreement has been reached by the parties or not.

D. Confidentiality. The work product of the mediator and all communications during mediation shall be privileged and not subject to compulsory disclosure. The mediator shall not appear or testify in any court proceedings. However, if the mediator believes that one party has acted in bad faith, the mediator is permitted (but not required) to disclose the acts of bad faith to the Court in a written declaration, sworn under penalty of perjury.

Local Domestic Rule 4
DOMESTIC LAW MOTIONS

A. Domestic Law Motions. Domestic law motions shall be scheduled on the domestic law dockets in Benton and Franklin Counties in accordance with the docket schedule approved by the Superior Court judges. Docket days and times are available through the Superior Court Administration Office and on the Court's website.

1. *Timelines for Filing Motions:* The timelines for filing a motion, response, and strict reply are noted above in Local Civil Rule 7. The Court will not consider any issues raised for the first time in the strict reply document. The Court, either on its own or after an objection, will determine whether an averment, argument, or evidence is a new issue for purposes of this Rule, thereby striking it from consideration.

2. *Confirmation/Strike Rules:* Motions must be confirmed by the moving party no later than 3:00 p.m. five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing or the motion will be stricken or continued at the Court's discretion. "Confirmed" means completing and filing on eMotion a "Read First" LMR 2. If the moving party fails to appear after confirming the motion, the Court may strike the motion, deny the motion, impose terms, and/or order any other relief the court deems appropriate. If the responding party fails to appear, the Court may grant the relief requested.
3. *Which docket do I set my hearing on?* See the Court's Website for information on which domestic docket to set a hearing in Benton or Franklin County under the "Schedules and Calendars" then "Benton & Franklin Dockets – Weekly Schedule" tab from the homepage.
4. *Time for Argument:* The Court shall have complete discretion to administer the docket as justice so requires, including ruling on motions without oral argument, with limited oral argument, or expanded oral argument, or in the ordinary course as follows:

    a. Each side on the Over 10 docket is allowed seven (7) minutes for argument.
    b. Each side on the Under 10 docket is allowed three (3) minutes for argument.
    c. Each side on the Over 20 docket is allowed fifteen (15) minutes for argument.
    d. Court shall notify litigants in advance of a ruling without oral argument by indicating it on the docket if time permits, otherwise, the Court shall notify the litigants at roll call at the start of the docket.

5. *Page Limits:* Absent prior authorization from the Court, the moving party (litigant filing the motion requesting relief) shall be limited to twenty-five (25) pages and the responding party shall be limited to twenty (20) pages, per motion. Failure to comply with this Rule is sanctionable; the Court, in its discretion, may impose terms, strike all pleadings of that noncomplying party, or any other relief the Court deems appropriate. Motions to exceed the page limit shall be made in writing, at least one (1) week before the hearing on the merits. The following documents do not count towards the page limit:

    a. cover pages (declaration of counsel cover page, fax cover page, etc.);
    b. financial declarations;
    c. child support worksheets and attachments;
    d. financial documents (including but not limited to paystubs, W-2s, bank records, and tax returns and attachments);
    e. Information on Temporary Parenting Plan form;
    f. expert reports and evaluations (including declarations, affidavits, and reports from Guardians ad Litem and/or a Parenting Evaluator);
    g. school records/letters, grade reports, school attendance reports; and
    h. pleadings from other filed cases, (e.g., Petition for Domestic Violence Protection Order; however, if the pleading is a declaration or affidavit from another court case, then those pages shall count towards the page limit), and copies of pleadings clearly marked as previously filed for a motion already ruled upon and supplied only as a convenience.

6. *Pleading format:* All declarations and affidavits must comply with GR 14 (format for pleadings and other papers), be legibly hand-printed or typed in at least twelve (12) point type.
7. *eMotion and bench copies:* Bench copies must be provided in accordance with LMR 2 above.
8. *Motions for Immediate Orders.*

    a. Immediate (or emergency) orders in family law matters that restrain one party from the family home or from contact with the other party or children shall not be entered unless the Court finds (and the order provides) that irreparable injury could result if the order is not entered.
    b. Present Danger to Child. Immediate (or emergency) orders in family law matters that request changing the custody of minor child(ren) shall not be entered unless the court finds a clear showing of present danger to a child(ren) and/or that the custodial person will, unless custody change is immediate, remove the said child(ren) from the State of Washington.
    c. Orders to Show Cause Notice. No notice is required to the other party when simply obtaining an Order to Show Cause to set a motion hearing, and there are no actual orders being taken in the Order beyond setting the motion hearing itself. This does not affect service rules.
    d. Reopening motions: No party shall remake the same motion to a different Judge or Commissioner without identifying the motion previously made, including when it was made, to which judicial officer it was made, what the order or decision was, and any new facts or other circumstances that would lawfully justify seeking a different ruling from the previous Judge or Commissioner.

B. Presentation of Proposed Orders. This rule applies only to the dockets listed below.

1. *Benton County Dockets Covered by this Rule.* Proposed Orders must be delivered to the Superior Court Administration office, Kennewick by 3:00 pm the day before the scheduled hearing. Unused paper-based Proposed Orders will be discarded the following business day. This rule applies to the following dockets:

    a. Tuesday
    8:15 AM: Domestic – Over Tens
    10:30 AM: Paternity
    1:15 PM: Domestic – PM
    b. Wednesday
    8:30 AM: Domestic – Under Tens
    9:00 AM: Domestic – Over 20

2. *Franklin County Docket Covered by this Rule.* Proposed Orders must be delivered to the Superior Court Administration office (Drop Box), Pasco by 3:00 pm the Friday before the scheduled hearing. Unused paper-based Proposed Orders will be discarded the following business day.

a. Monday
   8:30 AM: Domestic

3. *Compliance with Rules.* All parties must comply with applicable rules regarding Proposed Orders, bench copies, and service requires. Submission under this rule does not satisfy the party's obligation to:

    a. Serve Proposed Orders on opposing parties, or
    b. Upload Proposed Orders to eMotion.

4. *Paper Submission Only.* Both the moving and opposing parties shall submit paper versions of all Proposed Orders to the Superior Court Administration office. Orders must not be marked as "proposed" anywhere in the document (caption, body, footer).
5. *Cover Sheet Requirement.* Proposed Orders must include the designated cover sheet (found on the court's website). Orders submitted without the required cover sheet will be rejected at delivery or returned through legal process service (where applicable). Mailed documents will not be held or returned.
6. *Conformed Copies.* If conformed copies are submitted with Proposed Orders, they will be processed by the Clerk's Office. Parties must follow Clerk's Office requirements for conformed copies.
7. *Continued, Stricken, or Re-Noted Hearings (both counties).* If the hearing is continued, re-noted, or stricken then the previously submitted Proposed Orders will not be retained. Parties must submit new Proposed Orders as outlined above.

Local Domestic Rule 5
AGREED FINAL ORDERS & DEFAULT

A. Scope. This rule applies only to Agreed Final Orders and Default Orders for which a hearing has already been scheduled. Parties without a scheduled hearing date shall not submit orders under this rule.

B. Required Information.

1. Parties must provide the following on the required Final Order Submission Coversheet at the time of submission:

    a. Case Number
    b. Judicial Officer (if known)
    c. Whether the filing consists of agreed final pleadings or default final pleadings
    d. The docket on which the hearing is set

C. Submission Deadline. All Agreed Final Orders and Default Final Orders, together with the required Final Order Submission Coversheet, must be submitted to the Court Administration office no later than 3:00 p.m., five (5) court days prior to the scheduled hearing.

1. *Benton County.* The below timelines shall be followed when submitting the Agreed Final Orders/Default Final Orders. The Benton County orders shall be delivered to Benton County Superior Court, Kennewick.

    a. Pro Se/Self-Represented Litigant Docket. Held Tuesdays at 1:30 pm. Order must be submitted by 3:00 pm the Tuesday prior.
    b. Domestic Releations Under 10 Docket (Wednesdays at 8:30 am) - Orders must be submitted by 3:00 pm the Wednesday prior.

2. *Franklin County.* The below timelines shall be followed when submitting the Agreed Final Orders/Default Final Orders. The Franklin County orders shall be delivered to Franklin County Superior Court, Pasco.

    a. Domestic Relations Docket (Mondays at 8:30) - Order must be submitted by 3:00 pm the Monday prior.

D. Submission Method. Agreed final orders and default orders must be submitted to the Court Administration office in paper form only, accompanied by the early mentioned required Final Order Submission Coversheet.

1. *Printing Required.* Final Orders submitted through eMotion that require printing by the Judicial Officer will not be accepted. Judicial Officers will not print agreed final orders or default orders uploaded to eMotion for the parties.
2. *Continuance.* If final orders are uploaded to eMotion instead of submitted properly in paper form, the hearing must be continued by the Court with time to submit final/default orders per the rules outlined herein.

E. Requested Copies. Parties requesting conformed copies shall prepare as outlined below:

1. *Legal Process Service.* Provide a copy for the Clerk to conform and return to you through legal process service; and/or
2. *US Postal Service.* Provide a copy and a self-addressed stamped envelope for the Clerk to conform and to send to you through the US Postal Service;
3. *No Copies Provided.* If no copies are provided the submitting party must contact the Clerk's office after two (2) days for copies and pay the costs associated with the request.

Local Domestic Rule 6
MANDATORY SETTLEMENT & PRETRIAL CONFERENCES

A. Domestic/Paternity Settlement & Pretrial Conferences. See Court Website for any procedures and processes related to Domestic Settlement and Pre-Trial Conferences to include links to the two forms (Position Statement and Order Re: Pretrial Statement) that shall be submitted as outlined in the Case Schedule Order.

1. *Mandatory In-Person Attendance.* In-person attendance at settlement conference and pretrial conference is mandatory for all parties and their counsel, if represented, unless prior approval for appearance by Webex or by telephone is obtained from a judicial

officer for good cause. Information on how to obtain permission to appear by Webex or telephone for good cause can be found on the Website outlined in Extreme Hardship processes.

2. *Failure to Appear/Default.* Failure to appear at the settlement conference, without prior permission of the court, shall constitute an act of default. The present party may file a motion for default pursuant to CR 55. Notice of default and the proposed final documents are required pursuant to Court/Civil Rules to be served on the opposing party. The purpose of the conference is to explore settlement of all issues and to identify disputed issues. Parties are not bound by the settlement recommendations of the Court but are required to attend and participate.
3. *Failure to Appear/Sanctions.* Failure to appear at the settlement conference (without prior permission of the court) or failure to timely submit a Position Statement, may subject the non-complying party and/or their attorney to a sanction of $200, paid to the Clerk of the Court. Payment shall be due within twenty (20) days of the order. A party or attorney may petition the Court for relief from sanctions, which shall be filed within the same 20-day period and shall be noted for hearing.
4. *Position Statements.* Both parties shall exchange position statements prior to the Settlement Conference. The Parties shall submit with the Judicial Assistant (or eMotion) and serve/exchange their position statement, three (3) days prior to the settlement conference. Position statements shall not be filed in the court file. Failure to timely submit the required Position Statement and Order Re: Pretrial Statement (required immediately after an unsuccessful settlement conference) may result in the imposition of monetary sanctions. The dates are outlined on the Case Schedule Order.
5. *Joint Pretrial Statement.* At the conclusion of the settlement conference, if the case is not then settled, a Joint Pretrial Statement and Pretrial Order shall be prepared cooperatively between the parties and the Court. The Pretrial Order must be signed by the Judicial Officer. Exhibit and witness lists shall be filed and served, and exhibits served, not later than two (2) weeks before the trial date, unless otherwise stated in the Pretrial Order.

B. Order Striking Settlement Conference/CR2A Agreements. This rule guides entry of final orders when a settlement/pretrial conference and trial are stricken due to the entry of a CR2A Agreement.

1. *Striking Hearings.* If a CR2A agreement is entered, the settlement/pretrial conference and trial shall be stricken. The striking of hearings must be accompanied by an order to strike and entry of finals within 60 days.
2. *Entry of Finals.* Final orders shall be entered not more than 60 days after the originally scheduled settlement conference date.
3. *Court Action for Non-Compliance.* If no response is received and no final orders are entered within the designated timeframe, the court shall schedule a hearing. The hearing will be set for entry of finals or dismissal of the matter, with notice to all parties. The hearing shall be placed on the appropriate docket.

Local Domestic Rule 7
TRIAL READINESS

A. Trial Readiness Hearing. No attorney shall call ready for trial on any matter which conflicts with another trial already set for that attorney absent exigent circumstances. At the time of a trial readiness hearing, attorney(s) shall notify the presiding judicial officer of any conflicts with any other trial setting to avoid being double set for trial.

Local Domestic Rule 8
TRIAL

A. Assets and debts. If distribution of assets and/or debts is an issue, each party shall, no less than two (2) days before trial, serve the other party and upload to eMotion (or delivery to the Court Administration office if the party is unable to use eMotion), a list of assets and debts known to the party and that party's good faith position as to the fair market value of each. The parties shall also designate the asset or debt as community property or separate property and shall state their position as to what they believe the final distribution of the assets and/or debts should be.

B. Trial brief. If a party intends to submit a trial brief, the party shall file and serve a trial brief no less than two (2) court days before trial begins detailing the legal points and authorities related to the issues to be resolved at trial. A bench copy of the trial brief must be uploaded to eMotion or a hard copy delivered to the Court Administration office no less than two (2) court days prior to the start of trial.

C. Final Documents after Trial. At the conclusion of trial and unless otherwise directed by the Trial Court judicial officer the moving party (party who started the most recent petition) shall submit proposed final documents as follows:

1. *Timeline of Initial Submission*. The moving party must submit proposed final documents to the responding party within thirty (30) days of receiving the judicial officer's written decision (or oral ruling).
2. *Objections by Responding Party.* If the responding party objects, they must provide written objections and proposed changes to the moving party within fifteen (15) days of receiving the proposed final documents.
3. *Submission to the Judicial Officer Following Objections.* Upon receiving objections, the moving party shall deliver all of the following to the Trial Court Judicial Officer at Benton/Franklin Superior Court, (Kennewick for Benton County cases and Pasco for Franklin County cases).

    a. the proposed final documents
    b. proof of delivery to the other party
    c. the other party's objections and proposed changes
    d. cover page must state the name of the Judicial Officer and the dates of trial.
    e. the Court may schedule a hearing, sign the proposed documents, or make modifications.

4. *No Objections Filed.* If no objections are received within the allowed period, the moving party may submit the proposed final documents directly to the Trial Court

Judicial Officer with proof of delivery to the other party. The same cover page requirements apply. The judicial officer may sign and forward the documents for filing or may return them to the parties with instructions for revision.

5. *Failure to Moving Party to Submit Final Documents.* If the moving party fails to submit proposed final documents within thirty (30) days of the written decision, the responding party may submit them. The responding party must set the matter for an Entry of Final Documents hearing before the Trial Court judicial officer through the special set process and must give the moving party at least 21 days' notice. Proof of notice must be brought to the hearing.
6. *Oral Rulings and Transcripts.* If the Trial Court Judicial Officer issues an oral ruling and a transcript is ordered, all timelines and procedures in this rule begin within twenty-four (24) hours of all parties' receipt of the transcript.
7. *Post-Trial Issues on Regular Domestic Dockets.* If a post-trial issue (such as child support) remains to be resolved on the regular domestic docket, these procedures still apply to all other final documents. Once the Court issues its decision on any pending post-trial matter, the procedures in this rule commence within twenty-four (24) hours of that decision.
8. *Requests for Clarification.* Any request for clarification regarding submission of final documents must be directed to the Trial Court Judicial Officer through the Court Administration office. The other party must be copied on all communications, and the dates of the trial must be included.
9. *Informal Family Law Trial (IFLT).* See Local General Rule 40.

Local Domestic Rule 9
POST-DECREE MATTERS

A. Modification of Final Divorce Orders/Dissolution Decree. Any motions filed after a case has been closed (that is, a case that is post-decree and final orders have been entered) requesting to vacate, change, modify, or clarify a Final Divorce Order or Dissolution Decree shall require an Order to Show Cause to set the motion hearing.

1. *Spousal Maintenance.* As part of any petition to modify spousal maintenance, unless the party is disputing cause/adequate cause to modify, each party shall disclose within sixty (60) days of filing the petition and response their year-to-date paystubs as well as tax returns for the preceding two (2) years.

B. Modification of Final Order of Child Support. If a petition is filed to modify any order, judgment, or decree as to support of minor children only, then it shall be heard upon affidavit only, unless either party has obtained leave of Court to hear said matter upon oral testimony, in which event the notice of hearing shall so provide. As part of any petition to modify child support, unless the party is disputing cause/adequate cause to modify, each party shall disclose within sixty (60) days of filing the petition and response their year-to-date paystubs as well as tax returns for the preceding two (2) years.

C. Modification of Final Parenting Plan or Residential Schedule.

1. *Initiating the Action.* A party seeking modification of a Final Parenting Plan or Final Residential Schedule shall note an adequate cause hearing under RCW 26.09.270 on the appropriate motion calendar. The notice shall state the time, date, and place of the hearing and must advise the other party of their right to file opposing affidavits.
2. *No Adequate Cause Established.* If adequate cause is not established based on the affidavits, the petition for modification shall be denied, and no further action will be taken by the Court.
3. *Adequate Cause Established.* If adequate cause is established, the Court will issue an Order on Adequate Cause to Change a Parenting/Custody Order, requiring the other party to show cause why the requested modification should not be granted.
4. *Copy of Adequate Cause Order.* Parties or counsel must provide a conformed copy of the signed Order establishing Adequate Cause to the Judicial Assistant within one week of entry.
5. *Issuance of Case Schedule Order.* Upon receipt of the conformed Order, the Judicial Assistant will issue a Domestic Case Scheduling Order and provide a copy to each party or attorney of record.

D. Motions for Temporary Change of Residential Time on Modifications. Except in pending dissolution, legal separation, or invalidity actions, motions for temporary changes to residential time will not be heard until adequate cause has been established, unless an immediate restraining order has been granted.

1. *Adequate Cause Established.* Once adequate cause is established, the Court may proceed to hear the temporary residential time motion immediately or continue the hearing as necessary.
2. *Child Support Modifications.* This section does not apply to motions seeking modification of child support orders.

[The rules herein have in total been previously modified as follows: Adopted Effective January 1, 1997; Amended Effective September 1, 1999; September 1, 2018; September 1, 2019] [Adopted Effective September 1, 2007; Amended Effective September 1, 2013; September 2, 2014; September 1, 2015; September 1, 2017; September 1, 2018; September 1, 2019] [Adopted Effective September 1, 1998; Amended effective September 1, 2008; September 1, 2011; September 1, 2013; September 2, 2014; September 1, 2015; September 1, 2016; September 1, 2018; September 1, 2019; September 1, 2021; September 1, 2022; February 1, 2023; Amended & Re-Formatted Effective September 1, 2023; Amended, Re-Formatted and Re-numbered Effective September 1, 2024; Amended Effective September 1, 2025, Amended, Effective January 1, 2026; Amended Effective September 1, 2026]

Local Domestic Rule 10
CHANGE OF NAME OF STEPCHILD

A. When a change of name to that of a stepparent is sought for a child under eighteen (18) years of age, notice must be given to the natural parent(s) in the manner of giving notice to a non-consenting parent in an adoption, and in addition, written consent will be required of any child

over fourteen (14) years of age, unless good cause is shown as to why such notice should not be given.

[Adopted Effective April 1, 1986; Re-formatted and renumbered effective September 1, 2024]

Local Domestic Rule 11
DE FACTO PARENTING PROCEEDINGS

A. Court Review. All petitions adjudicating a claim of de facto parentage under RCW 26.26A.440 require Court Review. To initiate the Court Review process, do not note the matter for a hearing on a docket; instead, when service and timing requirements are satisfied, submit FL Parentage Form 343 (Request for Court Review – De Facto Parentage) on the ex parte docket. Request for Court Review shall be delivered to the judicial officer assigned to the docket presiding over the case. Upon After receipt of Form #343, the assigned judicial officer shall complete the Order After Review of Petition (Form #344) and determine the appropriate course of action, which may include setting the matter for an expedited hearing to determine standing, setting the case for trial, dismissing the petition, or any other action permitted by law.

B. Case Schedule Order. If the matter is set for trial, the court shall issue a Case Schedule Order, outlining deadlines for filings, discovery, and hearings in accordance with local court procedures.

C. Compliance. All proceedings under this rule shall comply with RCW 26.26A.440 regarding adjudication of de facto parentage.

[Adopted Effective September 1, 2025; Reformatted Effective September 1, 2026]