

CHAPTER 8.26B

SUPERIOR COURT FEES--COURTHOUSE FACILITATOR
PROGRAM--USER FEE

SECTIONS:

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8.26B.010 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for revenue in addition to the filing fee surcharge imposed by Chapter 8.26 BCC to be used to pay for the expenses of the Courthouse Facilitator Program created to provide basic services to pro se litigants in family law cases as authorized by RCW 26.12.240.

[Ord. 407 (2004) § 1; Ord. 459 (2007) § 1]

8.26B.020 DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall apply for the purpose of this chapter:

(a) "Courthouse Facilitator Program" means the contract services authorized by General Rule 27 of a Court Facilitator, who may be a licensed attorney or non-attorney that is retained to provide such limited assistance to pro se family law litigants immediately prior to and at the domestic docket, additional assistance authorized by General Rule 27 as requested in such cases in return for a user fee, and any other services authorized by resolution of the Benton County Board of Commissioners to be part of the Courthouse Facilitator Program authorized by RCW 26.12.240.

(b) "Family law cases" means superior court cases filed under Title 26 RCW.

(c) "Pro se litigant" means the person engaged in a legal proceeding who is representing himself/herself in the proceeding.

(d) "User fee" shall be a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fee for an initial consultation of up to thirty minutes with the Court Facilitator and another thirty-five (\$35.00) fee for each subsequent thirty minute consultation with the Court Facilitator. [Ord. 407 (2004) § 2; Ord. 459 (2007) § 2; Ord. 646 (2023) § 1]

8.26B.030 USER FEE IMPOSED. There shall be imposed a user fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for an initial consultation by a pro se litigant with the Court Facilitator for assistance in cases filed under Title 26 RCW and an additional thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fee for each subsequent consultation by such pro se litigant with the Court Facilitator. [Ord. 407 (2004) § 3; Ord. 459 (2007) § 3; Ord. 646 (2023) § 2]

8.26B.040 ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION. The administration and collection of the user fee imposed by this chapter shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 26.12 RCW. [Ord. 407 (2004) § 4]

8.26B.050 DISTRIBUTION OF USER FEE. Moneys collected as authorized by this chapter shall be deposited into the existing Courthouse Facilitator Program Fund No. 0136 to fund the expenses of the Courthouse Facilitator Program defined above. [Ord. 407 (2004) § 5; Ord. 459 (2007) § 4]

8.26B.060 EFFECTIVE DATE. This chapter shall take effect and be in force upon its adoption and passage.
[Ord. 407 (2004) § 7]