

Local Domestic Rule 1
GENERAL RULES

- A. Applicability.** These Local Domestic Rules shall apply to proceedings under RCW Title 26 and non-statutory family law proceedings (*e.g.*, committed intimate relationship, defacto parentage, etc.) pending or filed on or after September 1, 2025.
- 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.
1. *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. The parties must also provide a copy to the Domestic Judicial Assistant in Court Administration. *See* UCCJEA Information Form on the Website.
- D. 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.
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.
- E. 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). A Domestic Case Scheduling Order will be issued by the Domestic Judicial Assistant upon establishment of adequate cause for Motion/Petition to Modify/Change a Parenting Plan/Residential Schedule. A list of cases not governed by a Domestic Case Schedule Order can be found on the Court's website.
1. *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.

2. *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 procedure for modifying an existing case schedule order can be found on the Court's Website.
3. *Form of Order.* 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.
4. *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: (1) Proposed Child Support Worksheets (if applicable); (2) tax returns and W-2 statements for the past two calendar years; (3) partnership and corporate tax returns, if any, for the past two calendar years, to include all schedules and attachments; (4) wage stubs for the past six months or since January 1 of the calendar year, whichever period is greater; and (5) Declaration of Financial Documents Given to Opposing Party (available on the Court Website). 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.
5. All parties must comply with the domestic case schedule order.

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