



Prosecuting Attorney - Child Support 00100.842.

Mission Statement

Seek the Just Result

Function

The Family Support Division represents the Division of Child Support (DCS) of the State of Washington. The Family Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Family Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of child support.

Trends/Events

Trends

- In February of 2021, RCW 26.09.320 required all child support orders, past and future, to contain language ordering abatement of child support obligations for individuals serving long term (six months or more) incarceration. WAPA-SEP developed language to be added to Child Support Orders and the Clallam County Family Support division elected to address this issue by filing a Motion to Amend Order of Support. The State continues to send us cases with judicial orders which need this process expedited due to current or impending long term incarceration of the non-custodial parent. We continue reaching out to the local defense bar, giving them the option to notify our office if they have a client in this position.
- Many changes continue to be made to the pattern forms for Washington State Family Law cases. While WAPA-SEP has been able to keep up with some of these changes, others have been less timely. The Clallam County Family Support Division is working to maintain current forms to the extent possible using both the SEMS merge files from WAPA-SEP and seeking out updated pattern forms from the State Courts website.
- The Family Support Division continues to work collaboratively with the Dependency Court. Due to a policy change, dependency cases are no longer automatically referred to our office through the Title IVD program. However, we continue to provide genetic testing sample collection. We are also able to alert the court to any parentage cases running concurrent to the dependency. This has allowed us to locate several individuals who are necessary for our cases to move forward.

The Family Support Division continues to provide education for other departments, agencies, and attorneys whose missions cross paths with our functions. We interact regularly with the courthouse facilitator, DCYF, and the Dependency Court.

Events

- Clallam County Superior Court has shifted the Family Support / Contempt docket from the first and third Fridays to the first and third Tuesdays before the Family Court Commissioner. While calendared as a thirty-minute docket, the court is allowing as much time as needed for our cases. We continue to use our contempt pre-file diversion program to limit the need for court appearances. The goals of the program are 1. to identify cases that can be efficiently addressed through diversion and return them to the State without filing a contempt action once regular payments are established, 2. identify cases that should not be filed as contempt actions due to disability or financial hardship, 3. identify cases where we cannot locate the individual for service and return those cases to the State before filing a contempt action, and 4. proceed to file contempt actions and obtain orders re contempt in cases that are not suitable for diversion.

The Contempt Pre-File Diversion program has been updated with new resources and procedures. We have seen a significant increase in participation and success in reaching the goals set out for the program.

The Family Support Division is represented on the Clallam County Court Improvement Program (CIP) team. We answer questions regarding paternity establishment and genetic testing.

The County has entered a contract with The Law Office of James Rodriguez to provide defense services in our contempt cases. Mr. Rodriguez's associate, Jennifer Bible, is working with our office to move these matters to resolution. We are seeing increasing numbers of respondents appearing for court and fewer requests for bench warrants.

- The Family Support Division now has a designated conference room where we can meet with respondents, counsel, and others while keeping all confidential information locked away out of sight in compliance with DCS confidentiality requirements.

Goals

- We continue to update and maintain our Family Support Desk Book. Notable changes have been made to handling of Federal Tax Information and additional procedures for finalizing paternity, modification and adjustment cases within the Support Enforcement Management System.
- We are working on translating our pre-file diversion documents into Spanish and other languages as needed.
- We are seeking additional tools and resources for locating individuals for service of process in our paternity, modification, and contempt cases. We have located a new nationwide process service provider.
- Re-evaluate compensation for all positions to ensure the office remains competitive in the labor market.
- We are working to update technology within the division to include separation between state and county functions and data.
- We are working to restore our monthly Family Support visits to Forks to provide paternity interviews and genetic testing services for families living in the west end of the county.
- Re-evaluate compensation for all positions to ensure the office remains competitive in the labor market.

Challenges

- We see a number of our contempt cases go out to warrant. While we occasionally see a child support payment from the posted bail money, it is not an efficient or effective way to collect child support. We are continuing to work with defense counsel to re-engage these individuals and quash warrants before they are served, eliminating the expense of incarceration.
- Addressing technology needs continue to be a challenge, as both the county and state IT departments need to coordinate for upgrades and repairs.
- The attorney representing contemnors in child support matters, James Rodriguez, gave his notice to discontinue this contracted service. Chief Civil DPA Dee Boughton was able to renegotiate his contract to terms acceptable to both attorney Rodriguez and the county, allowing for the continuance of this service.

Workload Indicators

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual
Support Enforcement Cases (Jan - June)	88	100	36
Contempts	30	13	11
Modifications	16	26	4
Paternity	30	44	15
Other - DCS Reps & Abatements	12	17	6
Total Hearings	306	309	144

Grant Funding Sources

1. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
2. Department of Health and Human Services (Federal)

Revenues

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	323,679	352,619	138,636	334,000
Charges for Goods and Services	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	236	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	-13,887	-53,399	-4,145	-39,624
Total	309,792	299,220	134,727	294,376

Expenditures

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Salaries and Wages	188,179	183,252	84,552	183,911
Personnel Benefits	82,440	81,467	33,322	70,815
Supplies	1,867	1,605	1,456	3,100
Other Services and Charges	13,988	10,816	3,967	12,910
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	1,958	0	0	0
Debt Service: Principal	21,360	22,080	11,430	23,640
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	309,792	299,220	134,727	294,376

Staffing

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	2.53	2.53	2.53	1.90