



## Prosecuting Attorney - Child Support 00100.842.

### Mission Statement

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Seek the Just Result

### Function

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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

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#### 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 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

- WAPA-SEP has recently revived its brief bank and is asking for sample legal briefs for all WAPA-SEP Family Support Attorney's to access for review. They have also requested sample forms prepared for novel situations. Clallam County Family Support will be contributing to and using this resource in the future.
- Clallam County Family Support continues to develop forms for novel situations which have been appreciated by the Court in the past.
- The Contempt Pre-File Diversion program continues to be 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 continue to see 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

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- 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.

## 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.
- We find that our docket regularly exceeds the 30 minutes allotted by 30 minutes or more. This has caused extra anxiety for individuals waiting to be heard on their DV protection order matters. The Family Court Commissioner has taken notice of this and is working with the court to restructure or move our docket to allow the required amount of time necessary to address our case load.
- Members of the public are regularly being misdirected to our office for assistance that we are not allowed to offer. We are working with DSHS, DCYF, Healthy Families, First Step, the Court Clerk's office, the Family Court Facilitator, and the Court to help them understand what services we offer and how to access them through the Department of Child Support to avoid leaving parents feeling like they are getting the run-around.

## Workload Indicators

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual
Support Enforcement Cases (Jan - June)	100	75	40
Contempts	13	22	7
Modifications	26	14	14
Paternity	44	27	17
Other - DCS Reps & Abatements	17	12	2
Total Hearings	309	315	171

## Grant Funding Sources

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

## Revenues

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	352,619	283,163	152,718	334,000
Charges for Goods and Services	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	236	45	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0

Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	-53,399	-11,284	-11,710	-28,472
Total	299,220	272,115	141,053	305,528

## Expenditures

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Salaries and Wages	183,252	172,782	89,649	197,954
Personnel Benefits	81,467	66,973	34,152	67,924
Supplies	1,605	1,886	860	3,100
Other Services and Charges	10,816	7,614	4,572	12,070
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	0
Debt Service: Principal	22,080	22,860	11,820	24,480
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	299,220	272,115	141,053	305,528

## Staffing

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Full Time Equivalent	2.53	2.53	1.90	1.90