



Superior Court  
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## Mission Statement

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### **Superior Court:**

- Adjudicate all cases, both criminal and civil, in a just and timely manner
- Assure due process and equal protection under the law
- Promote access to justice to all persons

### **Drug Court:**

Enhance community safety and security by holding substance abusing individuals accountable for their actions while providing them an opportunity for treatment to develop and change their life skills and habits so they can become responsible and productive members of their families and society.

### **LIFT Court (Living in Families Together) Family Therapeutic Court:**

LIFT Court's mission is to achieve safe and timely permanent child placement by providing structure, discipline, accountability and encouragement to parents through judicially managed community based service.

## Function

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**Superior Court:** The Superior Court is a general jurisdiction court. It has the responsibility of adjudicating matters coming before it over which it has original or appellate jurisdiction, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Washington. This includes felony criminal, civil, juvenile, domestic relations, adoption, guardianship, paternity, probate, domestic violence, and mental illness cases. The court is charged with resolving cases in an accessible and expeditious fashion.

**Drug Court:** Clallam County Superior Court operates two Drug Court Programs for those charged with crimes: Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court. The Drug Courts are a minimum one year voluntary treatment-based program for individuals in need of intensive treatment for addictive disease and co-occurring mental health disorders. Drug Court offers an alternative to criminal prosecution.

Since its inception, Drug Court has served 1383 participants with 439 graduates. (This year due to the new legislative rulings regarding Blake, Drug Court has recognized 11 participants for their efforts and dismissed their charges, these are not considered or counted as graduates.) Drug Court reduced recidivism, returned participants to work and school, reunited families and participants became active members of the community reducing need for community services. Clallam County has been able to provide more services and treatment opportunities to more participants than any county of comparable size.

**L.I.F.T. Court** (Living in Families Together) operates for high risk dependency cases that involve mental illness and/or addiction and alcoholism. Participants are referred by the court, social workers, attorneys, treatment providers or themselves. Participants are reviewed on a weekly basis for parenting, housing, legal, recovery/mental health issues and counseling compliance.

Since its inception in August 2008, L.I.F.T. Court has served 266 parents and 324 children. 98 parents have graduated, and 142 children have achieved permanency without the need for a trial. L.I.F.T. Court reduced recidivism, returned parent and children to school and/or work, reunited families, reduced the need for additional supervision, and created participants who are interested in their communities and want to be part of the greater good.

The L.I.F.T. Court Coordinator has been a member of the Clallam County Behavioral Health Advisory Board since 2008. The Committee meets on a bi-monthly basis and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on how to best allocate the 1/10 of a 1 percent Substance Abuse Disorder/Behavioral Health Dollars our County collects. The Committee reviews all Requests For Proposals (RFP's) submitted each year and determines who qualifies to receive grant funds.

## Trends/Events

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**Blake Decision:** The court continues to work closely with the public defender's and prosecutor's offices to handle these matters as efficiently as possible. Our case numbers indicate that in 2021 a total of (102) cases were brought before the court and addressed on our regularly scheduled court calendars before our presiding judicial staff without the need to use Pro Tem Court Commissioners. In 2022 there have been a total of 82 cases reviewed to date by our court.

**Unified Guardianship Act (UGA):** As of January 1, 2021, the State of Washington enacted a new statute (RCW 11.130.195) that requires all courts to begin appointing guardian ad litem attorneys and court visitors to represent parties involved in minor guardianship cases. The average hours per case can range from 5-20 hours total, and \$45/\$100 per hour for attorney/court visitor fees. In 2021 there were a total of (27) cases filed, and in 2022 a total of (4) cases filed thru June 30, 2022.

**Mental Health Sentences:** The Washington Legislature has enacted a sentencing alternative based on mental health disorders (along the lines of sentencing alternatives currently in place for those who commit sex crimes or drug crimes). The legislation requires the court to hold review hearings and monitor compliance. In effect, the Legislature has created a mental health court in Superior Court. The court anticipates addressing these hearings within the current Behavioral Health calendar that the court already has, and hopes that some of the cases that occupy the current Behavioral Health calendar will ultimately be switched to the county Mental Health Court now being housed in the Clallam County District Court and scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2022.

**Evictions:** The court has been working closely with local stakeholders to put in place the court orders and processes necessary to handle the end of the eviction moratorium in Clallam County, and implement the new processes authorized by the Washington Legislature. In of August 2021 two orders were entered by Clallam County Superior Court announcing the Eviction Resolution Polit Program and Right to Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Unlawful Detainer Proceedings. Both Northwest Justice and Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center are now able assist landlord & tenant with questions about evictions.

**Zoom and Video Conferencing:** Due to the COVID Pandemic which began in March 2019, the courts have become innovative and have creative Zoom meetings for courtroom participants to appear by telephone and video conference in all four courtrooms. By adding Zoom we have provided advanced access to courts for the public and court participants, including being able to provide multiple people on a call at one time. This process has continued and is now our "new normal" for the courtrooms by providing Zoom/video appearances as a positive result after the pandemic.

**Infant/Toddler Court:** The Washington Legislature has authorized the creation of "baby courts" to better address the unique issues that arise in dependency cases involving infants. Superior Court has created a committee and started this new program called "Infant/Toddler Court" which is incorporated with our L.I.F.T. Court and does not require additional funding.

**Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):** Recent State Supreme Court decisions have emphasized the increased attention that court's must dedicate to the monitoring of these cases throughout the dependency process. The court created a ICWA committee and began a ICWA court as of April 2022 which is held once a month before a team of court professionals focusing on individualized attention provided for each case.

**Protection Orders:** In 2022 the Washington Legislature enacted a global approach to protection orders. This approach requires coordination with District Court, and the implementation of efilng. The court has worked together with both District Court and the Court Clerk's office by implementing court procedures and instructions for the public to access and use that comply with the mandatory legal requirements required by the Legislature.

**Drug Court Standards:** Over the past four years Drug Court has worked to revise several aspects of the program to meet or exceed National Drug Court standards. We are taking time to allow changes to the program and their impact to be measured. We will be seeking increased mental health service collaboration with local providers and have invited one of the largest providers to join the Drug Court team for case consultations. There is also an ongoing effort to increase virtual access to participants while incarcerated so a continuum of care can be maintained.

## Goals

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### Superior Court:

1. Provide continuous training and education for staff and judges to ensure a high level of competency and efficiency, including succession planning and future goals.
2. Continue to ensure safe and secure courtrooms for the protection of litigants, witnesses,

spectators, and court personnel while working diligently to stay up-to-date by participating in Active Shooter training and by replacing old emergency radios with newer, more effective emergency radios throughout the courtrooms and offices providing for quick responses when requested. The court continues to believe that the best approach to courtroom security is a countywide approach to courthouse security. Implementation of the minimum standards set forth in GR 36 remain a minimum standard that the court believes should be implemented, including security screening at all entrances, security cameras, duress alarms, emergency broadcast notification systems, active training, and regular security audits.

3. Continue to efficiently manage limited resources through programs such as the Special Report Calendar (a mental health court that helps to reduce jail costs, among other advantages), Friendship Diversion (pre-trial supervisions and probation), and establishing a "flat-fee" for criminal conflict appointments and for some mental health evaluations.
4. Continue to provide 24-hour coverage for law enforcement search warrants and wire orders. Work to further the accessibility of substance use disorder services for individuals incarcerated in the Clallam County jail.
5. Devoted to working on courtroom modernization projects by making audio/visual and other technological improvements to bring the courtrooms to current standards. The public is now able to view exhibits and videos on two courtroom television monitors providing for better viewing capabilities for jurors, witnesses and the public. We also now have the ability to provide video conferencing when witnesses are unable to appear in court, and a video cart with an Elmo and laptop for participants' use during court proceedings. Continue to work toward and advocate for the immediate implementation of e-filing of documents.
6. Continue to move toward the upgrades and improvements of our new State-wide case management system called "Odyssey" while also working toward a "paperless court" through technology as resources allow. The Odyssey program provides for a more effective and efficient management of cases and reporting and provides the public with the ability to view and access cases online saving time and money.
7. In conjunction with our new Odyssey Case Management System and preparing for a paperless court, Superior Court strives to work toward an electronic filing system to meet the needs of public access to justice. The electronic filing system will include the requirement of the use of electronic signing.
8. Increase community connectivity and outreach by upgrading and making improvements to our existing County Superior Court website to include the latest Emergency Orders, COVID announcements, Zoom instructions, Facebook updates and other pertinent links related to court information 24/7.
9. In March of 2018 Clallam County was chosen to participate in and has been continued to be successful in a program called "Parents for Parents." This program provides education, mentoring and increased engagement in the Dependency system to promote safe and timely reunification of children with their parents. This program now offers participants two classes for strengthening and developing family relationships.
10. Developed a working relationship between Olympic Medical Center and the Court to provide direct video conferencing for court hearings to comply with the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA). ITA's are held by Zoom in all three Superior Court courtrooms as needed.

11. The Court has established a working relationship with the Sheriff's office by integrating a direct-line video conferencing connection between the courtrooms and the jail providing a more efficient handling of in-custody court cases and first appearances and multiple hearings. Our first courtroom/jail calendar was held in the spring of 2018 and continues today on a daily, regular basis without interruption with the ability to use two jail video conferencing rooms to
12. Superior Court and Clallam County Online Parenting Programs developed and implemented an online parenting program course for the public to access when needing to take parenting classes. This new program saves time and money for the public and is available online as of September 2019.

**Drug Court:**

1. Provide an alternative to traditional criminal procedures for defendants committing offenses due to drug addiction.
2. Provide team training to enhance the effectiveness of both Adult and Juvenile Drug Court Teams and individual team members.
3. Utilize existing financial resources effectively.
4. Explore alternatives to State funded inpatient treatment placements for participants needing more help than is available through intensive outpatient treatment.
5. Continue to work with our established Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) steering committee that serves as a countywide forum charged with submitting an annual plan with the Salish Behavioral Health Organization for disposition of funds provided from the CJTA.
6. Work to further the accessibility of substance use disorder services for individuals incarcerated in the Clallam County jail through telehealth services.
7. Develop a more robust prosocial activities program for Drug Court participants and strengthen the alumni participation and retention.

**L.I.F.T. Court:**

**Infant/Toddler Court:** L.I.F.T. Court has worked hard to create and implement a new Infant/Toddler Court administered through the Family Court with support from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The purpose of the program is to support families who have gone through a dependency and are working on reunification with infants between the ages 0-3 to create a better bond between parent and baby. A planning committee was created and meet on a monthly basis to review and discuss program goals. The new program started in April 2022 with court hearings held once a week with all participants.

**Workload Indicators**

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual
Cases Filed:			
Criminal	446	357	204
Civil	705	630	352
Domestic	360	379	137
Probate/Guardianship	459	517	311
Adoption/Paternity	100	130	47
Mental Illness	166	166	84

Juvenile Non-Offender	234	168	173
Juvenile Offender	98	60	51
Total Cases Filed	2,568	2,407	1,359
Non-Trial Proceedings:			
Civil/Juvenile	3,510	3,659	1,786
Criminal/Juvenile Offender	6,557	5,610	2,735
Total Non-Trial Proceedings	10,067	9,269	4,521
Trials:			
Civil Non-Jury Trial	40	50	28
Civil Jury Trials	1	0	0
Criminal Jury	9	15	5
Criminal Non-Jury Trials	0	13	2
Total Trials	50	78	35
Drug Court:			
Adult, Juvenile Court Participants	131	82	62
Adult, Juvenile Drug Court Graduates	15	9	14
L.I.F.T. Court:			
Adult clients served in L.I.F.T. Court	31	21	14
Children served in L.I.F.T. Court	41	29	23

## Grant Funding Sources

1. Department of Health and Human Services (Federal)
2. Office Administrator for the Courts (State)

## Revenues

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual	2023 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	57,787	573,105	41,394	156,372
Charges for Goods and Services	267,079	227,716	98,841	331,968
Fines and Forfeits	490	521	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,909	1,473	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	1,487,490	669,963	674,331	1,350,284
Total	1,814,754	1,472,778	814,566	1,838,624

## Expenditures

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual	2023 Budget
Salaries and Wages	760,379	810,988	415,605	960,021
Personnel Benefits	166,715	186,287	95,665	212,146
Supplies	37,049	14,560	3,923	33,857
Other Services and Charges	411,210	372,951	299,372	621,400

Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	439,400	87,992	0	11,200
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	1,814,754	1,472,778	814,566	1,838,624

## Staffing

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	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75