



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 is sending us cases with judicial orders which need this process expedited due to current or impending long term incarceration of the non-custodial parent. We are also 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 be in the courtroom 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. We will present at an upcoming Paternity Q&A regarding our functions, DCS services, and how to access them.

Events

- Clallam County Superior Court has shifted the Family Support / Contempt docket from 4 days per month to 2 days per month. This has caused a consolidation of the case load for hearings. In an effort to keep the calendar to no more than 30 cases, we have re-designed our contempt diversion program to a pre-file model. The goals 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 Family Support Division is represented on the Clallam County Court Improvement Program (CIP) team. We answer questions regarding paternity establishment and genetic testing.

Goals

- We are continuing to envision and expand our contempt for failure to pay child support diversion program. It is our intention to improve reach (retention) and outcomes (consistent payment / wage withholding) of cases in the program through more extensive follow-up and wider resource referrals with our pre-file diversion program.
- We are working on translating our pre-file diversion documents into Spanish. We are seeking additional tools and resources for locating individuals for service of process in our paternity, modification, and contempt cases.
- 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.
- 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

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	6/30/23 Actual
Support Enforcement Cases (July - June)	87	88	50
Contempts	10	30	6
Modifications	16	16	12
Paternity	37	30	24
Other	24	12	8
Total Hearings	246	306	147

Grant Funding Sources

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

Revenues

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	6/30/23 Actual	2024 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	306,066	323,679	172,144	334,000
Charges for Goods and Services	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	-11,899	-13,887	-11,504	-10
Total	294,167	309,792	160,640	333,990

Expenditures

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	6/30/23 Actual	2024 Budget
Salaries and Wages	178,860	188,179	98,981	205,765
Personnel Benefits	80,219	82,440	43,789	88,855
Supplies	4,318	1,867	677	3,100
Other Services and Charges	30,770	13,988	6,153	13,410
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	1,958	0	0
Debt Service: Principal	0	21,360	11,040	22,860
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	294,167	309,792	160,640	333,990

Staffing

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53