



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.

**LIFT Court** (Living in Families Together) operates for high risk dependency cases that involve mental illness and/or 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, LIFT Court has served 307 parents and 381 children. 82 parents have graduated, and 97 children have achieved permanency without the need for a trial. LIFT 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 LIFT Court Coordinator has been part of the Clallam County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, otherwise known as the "Hargrove Committee" since 2008. The Committee meets on a monthly basis and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on how to best allocate the 1/10 of 1 percent SUD/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. The statistics indicate a large number of cases that will have to be addressed. We do not know what the full impact of this decision will be. At this point our proposals regarding increases in our pro tem commissioner budget is meant to allow us to respond to increased work loads.

**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. We anticipate adding a specific calendar each month where these cases will be scheduled so that the individualized attention required can be provided.

**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/\$65 per hour for attorney/court visitor fees.

**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 being housed in the Clallam County District Court.

**Evictions:** The impact in Clallam County that will result for the end of the eviction moratorium is unknown. The court has been working closely with local stakeholders to put in place the court orders and processes necessary to handle these cases, and implement the new processes authorized by the Washington Legislature. The proposed increase in pro tem commissioner budget is driven by the need to respond to these changes.

**Zoom and Video Conferencing:** Due to the COVID Pandemic, the courts have become innovative and creative by adding 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. We believe this will be the new normal and Zoom/video appearances will continue after the pandemic.

**ITA Hearings:** Superior Court continues to experience Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) filing hearings with the court. These cases involve individuals who are hospitalized and need further treatment but are unable to make their own decisions, therefore the court has to intervene. These hearings have to be filed and heard within 48 hours after an individual is first hospitalized. These hearings are held by Zoom or in person at the hospital with the judge, attorneys, incapacitated person and the court clerk all present and held by video directly into the courtroom for the public to see and hear. The hearings are time consuming and create courtroom congestion the ITA hearings are mandatory. Sometimes the hearings are canceled due to the incapacitated agreeing to treatment or dismissing the petition.

**Baby 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 made extensive plans to implement such a court, and anticipates at this point that it will become part of LIFT Court, and will not require additional funding.

**Protection Orders:** The Washington Legislature has enacted a global approach to protection orders. This approach will require coordination with District Court, and the implementation of efilig. The court has previously expressed its concerns in this regard, and will continue to work with county officials to ensure that the court can comply with legal requirements as they become mandatory in 2022.

## 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.
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. Develop a more cost effective practice for drug screen collection with associated providers.
7. Develop a Medication Assisted Therapy guideline in tune with the National Drug Court best practices.
8. In 2020 Drug Court reviewed, finalized and implemented a best practices and procedures manual establishing updated Drug Court Policy and Procedure.
9. Work to further the accessibility of substance use disorder services for individuals incarcerated in the Clallam County jail.  
Develop a more robust prosocial actives program for Drug Court participants and strengthen the
10. alumni participation and retention.

**LIFT Court:**

**Baby Court:** LIFT Court has been working on the implementation of a new Baby 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 has been created and have been meeting on a monthly basis with the goal of having this program implemented by the end of 2021.

**Workload Indicators**

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	6/30/21 Actual
Cases Filed:			
Criminal	550	446	168
Civil	1,027	705	360
Domestic	438	360	202
Probate/Guardianship	491	459	246
Adoption/Paternity	82	100	69
Mental Illness	133	166	95
Juvenile Non-Offender	476	234	65
Juvenile Offender	147	98	29
Total Cases Filed	3,344	2,568	1,234
Non-Trial Proceedings:			
Civil/Juvenile	4,390	3,510	1,916

Criminal/Juvenile Offender	7,520	6,557	2,927
Total Non-Trial Proceedings	11,910	10,067	4,843
Trials:			
Civil Non-Jury Trial	51	40	28
Civil Jury Trials	1	1	0
Criminal Jury	11	9	9
Total Trials	63	50	37
Drug Court:			
Adult, Juvenile Court Participants	131	82	62
Adult, Juvenile Drug Court Graduates	15	9	14
LIFT Court:			
Adult clients served in LIFT Court	33	31	21
Children served in LIFT Court	40	41	29

## Grant Funding Sources

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

## Revenues

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	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	6/30/21 Actual	2022 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	89,381	57,787	475,155	49,131
Charges for Goods and Services	208,256	267,079	99,242	307,262
Fines and Forfeits	1,034	490	150	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	1,909	1,473	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	1,122,163	1,487,490	147,578	1,520,921
Total	1,420,834	1,814,754	723,598	1,877,314

## Expenditures

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	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	6/30/21 Actual	2022 Budget
Salaries and Wages	726,961	760,379	399,779	957,306
Personnel Benefits	169,789	166,715	95,010	205,543
Supplies	25,831	37,049	6,897	53,657
Other Services and Charges	492,866	411,210	147,119	659,068
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	5,387	439,400	74,794	1,740
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	1,420,834	1,814,754	723,598	1,877,314

## Staffing

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	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75