

*****With the exception of the adoption of SCLGALR 6.6 all other updates reflect the new contact number for Superior Court Administration only.***

SCLAR

RULE 0.1 SCOPE OF RULES

- (a) These rules shall become effective, September 1, 2016.
- (b) All proceedings in Skagit County Superior Court shall be conducted in accordance with applicable statutes and Washington State Court Rules, except as modified by these Local Court Rules.
- (c) Compliance with Skagit County Local Court Rules shall be mandatory, unless waived by the Court for good cause.

RULE 0.2 COURT ORGANIZATION

- (a) Departments.

Dept	Created	Judge	Date of Qualification
No. 1	1891	Hon. Brian Stiles	June 2015
No. 2	1955	Hon. Michael E. Rickert	January 1993
No. 3	1992	Hon. Laura R. Riquelme	March 2016
No. 4	2006	Hon. Dave Needy	January 2006

- (b) Selection of Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge shall be the Superior Court Judge selected by a majority vote of the Skagit County Superior Court Judges. An election shall be held during the second December of the term of the current Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge shall serve for two calendar years.
- (c) Commissioners. Except where otherwise required by law or court rules, the terms "judge" and "court" include commissioners. Court Commissioners authorized by Article 4, Section 23 of the Constitution of the State of Washington have the power, authority and jurisdiction established by RCW 2.24.040, including the specific authorization to accept pleas in adult criminal cases in accordance with CrR 4.2. [Adopted September 1, 2009]

RULE 0.3 SPECIAL SET HEARINGS AND COURT SCHEDULE

- (a) SPECIAL SET HEARINGS All special set hearings shall be set through the Court Administrator's Office at (360) 416-1200 and, unless agreed upon by all parties and the Court, follow the nine (9) court day rule. No special set hearings should be scheduled before the criminal motions judge on Fridays. [adopted September 1, 2008; amended September 1, 2009; amended September 1, 2011; amended September 1, 2016]
- (b) COURT SCHEDULE – Rescinded [November 1, 2013] Refer to Court's website.

SCLCR 40 (d)

RULE 40 ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

(a) [Reserved]

(b) Methods

(1) *Form of Request.* The trial assignment calendar shall be held on each Monday at 9:30 a.m. Counsel should not be present for this calendar, but should proceed according to the remainder of this rule. Trial dates shall be assigned by the Court Administrator pursuant to requests made in accordance with CR 40, using the form in Appendix H (for pro se litigants) or J to these Local Rules.

(2) *Joinder and Default.* Before filing a request for trial assignment, counsel must determine that all joinder issues under CRs 18-20 are resolved. Motions for default under CR 55 must have been heard and resolved before requesting a trial date.

(3) *Conflict Dates.* Counsel shall file with the clerk of the court, and a copy to Court Administration, a notice of conflict dates on or before the date set for the trial assignment. A trial date will be assigned even if all parties have not submitted conflicts. Conflict dates shall be limited to previously scheduled vacations, trial dates, arbitrations and mediations. Counsel is to include the name of the trial, arbitration or mediation in conflict and the location of the conflict. The form Notice of Conflict Dates may be found in the Forms Appendix. [Amended September 2, 2014]

(4) *Objections to Trial Assignment.* The Court Administrator shall set the trial date from the trial assignment calendar. Objections to having a trial date assigned shall be made by motion and noted for hearing within 14 calendar days of filing of the Note for Trial Assignment. If the Court finds the objection has merit, the trial date will be stricken.

(5) *Pre-assignment of Judge.* Parties may move the court for pre-assignment of a judge. The original should be filed and a copy should be delivered to the Court Administrator. The presiding Judge will then select a Judge for pre-assignment. A letter will then notify counsel that all pretrial motions should be heard by the assigned judge and should be scheduled through Court Administration. This is to assure that the assigned judge is on the appropriate calendar, or if a special set is necessary. If both sides do not agree to a pre-assignment, the matter can be brought on the regular Civil Motions calendar. [Amended March 1, 2013; amended June 1, 2013]

(c) [Reserved]

(d) Confirmation of Civil Trials

(1) All civil jury trials shall be confirmed by noon Thursday the week before the scheduled trial date. All other bench trials, EXCEPT unlawful detainers, shall be confirmed by noon two court days before the scheduled trial date. Counsel shall confirm trials by calling the Superior Court Administrator's Office, (360) 416-1200. If a trial is not confirmed in accordance with this rule, the trial will be stricken. [Amended September 1, 2015; amended September 1, 2016]

(e) Continuances and Settlement. Attorneys shall immediately notify the Court Administrator if a trial has settled or has been continued.

(f) [Reserved]

[Adopted September 1, 2009]

SCLCR 57 A(3)

RULE 57

DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS

(a) Confirmation of Motion

(1) All parties must conform to the motion and proceeding requirements of CR 57.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of the moving party to confirm all motions for Declaratory Judgment on the Thursday 9:30 a.m. calendar by 4:00 p.m. Friday the week before the scheduled hearing. [Amended March 1, 2012; amended January 1, 2014]

(3) Confirmation shall be made by telephone to the Court Administrator's Office at (360) 416-1200 between 8:30 a.m. Monday and 4:00 p.m. Friday the week before said motion is scheduled for hearing. [September 2, 2014]

(4) Motions not confirmed in accordance with this rule will be stricken.

(5) SCLCR (10)(d)(2) does not apply to SCLCR 57.

[Adopted September 1, 2009; amended September 1, 2016]

SCLSPR 94.04.4

94.04.4 FAMILY LAW TRIAL REQUEST AND CONFIRMATION

(d) FAMILY LAW TRIAL REQUEST. The trial assignment calendar shall be held on each Monday at 9:30 a.m. Parties need not be present for this calendar, but should proceed according to the remainder of this rule. Trial dates shall be assigned by the Court Administrator pursuant to requests made in accordance with CR 40, using the form in Appendix H (for pro se litigants) or J to these Local Rules.

(1) *Parenting Seminar Required.* A parenting seminar under SCLSPR 94.04.1 must be completed, if applicable, before requesting a trial date.

(2) *Mandatory Mediation on Domestic Matters.* Certification of completed mediation must be filed prior to trial or the matter is subject to being stricken by the Court. See SCLSPR 94.04.2(c)-(g).

(3) *Conflict Dates.* The parties shall file with the clerk of the court a notice of conflict dates on or before the date set for the trial assignment. A trial date will be assigned even if all parties have not submitted conflicts. Conflict dates shall be limited to previously scheduled vacations, trial dates, arbitrations and mediations. If counsel is involved, counsel is to include the name of the trial, arbitration or mediation in conflict and the location of the conflict. The form Notice of Conflict Dates may be found in the Forms Appendix.

(4) *Objections to Trial Assignment.* The Court Administrator shall set the trial date from the trial assignment calendar. Objections to having a trial date assigned shall be made by motion and noted for hearing within 14 calendar days of filing of the Note for Trial Assignment. If the Court finds the objection has merit, the trial date will be stricken.

(5) *Continuances and Settlement.* Parties shall immediately notify the Court Administrator if a trial has settled or has been continued.

(e) CONFIRMATION OF FAMILY LAW TRIALS. All family law trials shall be confirmed by noon two court days before the scheduled trial date. Parties shall confirm trials by calling the Superior Court Administrator's Office (360) 416-1200. If a trial is not confirmed in accordance with this rule, the trial will be stricken.

[Adopted September 1, 2009; amended September 1, 2016]

SCLGALR 6.6

6. RETENTION ON REGISTRY

- 6.1 Persons on the registry shall promptly inform the court of any temporary unavailability to serve, or of their intent to resign from the registry.
- 6.2 A person shall remain on the registry unless the person fails to maintain a current application with attachments or the person is removed or suspended as set forth in Section VI.
- 6.3 A person may be denied listing on, or may be temporarily suspended from, the registry for any reason that places the suitability of the person to act as guardian ad litem in question.
- 6.4 A guardian ad litem who ceases to be on the registry and who still has active or incomplete cases shall immediately report his circumstance to the Court Administrator, and the court shall reassign such cases.
- 6.5 A person's retention on the registry shall be reviewed upon the court's receipt of a complaint regarding performance in office or the court's receipt of adverse information regarding the suitability of a person to serve as a guardian ad litem. Complaints shall be reviewed in accordance with Section VI.
- 6.6 A GAL may be immediately suspended by the Superior Court Administrator in case of emergency, And subject to timely review by the Guardian Ad Litem Review Committee. [Adopted effective September 1, 2016]

SCLRALJ 8.5 (b)

Rule 8.5 CONFIRMATION OF ORAL ARGUMENT

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of the petitioner to confirm oral argument on the Thursday 9:30 a.m. calendar by 4:00 p.m. Friday the week before the scheduled hearing. [Amended March 1, 2012, January 1, 2014]
- (b) Confirmation shall be made by telephone to the Court Administrator's Office at (360) 416-1200 between 8:30 a.m. Monday and 4:00 p.m. Friday the week prior to when the oral argument is scheduled for hearing. [Amended September 2, 2014, amended September 1, 2016]
- (c) Motions not confirmed in accordance with this rule will be stricken.

[Adopted September 1, 2009]