

SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Judicial Settlement Conferences

Judicial settlement conferences may be available in Title 11 minor guardianship cases when all parties agree that a settlement conference would be helpful to facilitate settlement short of trial.

If the parties believe a case is appropriate for a judicial settlement conference, they may file a motion and note it on the guardianship calendar. No case will be scheduled for a settlement conference absent a court order. Settlement conferences will occur only when there is sufficient space and judicial availability. Parties shall note the motion for settlement conference with as much advance notice before a trial date as possible. These conferences shall be scheduled to take no more than half a court day.

The parties shall submit a Settlement Conference statement 2 days prior to the conference. The statement shall be provided to Court Administration only and shall not be filed in the official court file. The statement shall provide and identify the following:

Case name and cause number;

Date and time of Settlement Conference;

Judicial Officer name conducting the conference;

Factual statement of the case;

Issues to be addressed at the conference;

Each parties' concerns, issues, disagreements and position on the case;

Each parties' proposed resolution with proposed orders; and

Any other information the parties believe the Judicial Officer may need to assist in the resolution of the matter.

Skagit County Superior Court has generated a Settlement Conference Statement form available from Court Administration for use by the parties if they desire.

Settlement Conferences are confidential and protected under ER 408.

Judicial settlement conferences are not available in other types of cases, to include family law cases or dependency-related cases where DCYF is a party, such as Title 13 guardianships or petitions to terminate parental rights.