

1. REQUEST FOR NEW LOCAL RULE TO ONLY HEAR SHELTER CARE HEARINGS ON THE COURT'S REGULAR SHELTER CARE CALENDARS UNDER: SCLJuCR 2.3(a)(5).

ISSUE: Shelter care special set hearings.

PROPOSED LOCAL RULE: Shelter care hearings shall only be heard on the shelter care calendars published on the Court's website pursuant to SCLAR 0.3(b).

REASON FOR REQUEST: The number of requests for a shelter care hearing outside the regular Tuesday and Friday afternoon shelter care calendar continues to increase. It is challenging and sometimes impossible for family defense attorneys to change their schedules on short notice to accommodate a special set request. It is especially difficult to accommodate special sets because most family defense attorneys have part-time contracts in Skagit through the Office of Public Defense. Family defense attorneys have contracts for other subject matters in Skagit County and in other jurisdictions. Special set requests are often last minute, which results in parents being denied their Constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel and their right to a true 72-hour shelter care hearing. Counties with higher dependency filings do not allow for special set shelter care hearings. Currently, shelter care calendars are Tuesdays and Fridays at 2:00 p.m. This request seeks to only have shelter care hearings on regularly scheduled shelter care calendars hearings, and to prohibit special set shelter care hearings.