

8. REQUEST FOR NEW LOCAL RULE REQUIRING PARTIES TO USE THE WASHINGTON STATE JUVENILE COURT PATTERN FORMS, IF A PATTERN FORM EXISTS, UNDER SCLJuCR 1.8.

ISSUE: Some proposed orders from the Attorney General's Office do not adhere to the Washington State Juvenile Court Pattern Forms.

PROPOSED NEW LOCAL RULE: Skagit County dependency proceedings shall utilize the Washington State Juvenile Court Forms. If a party seeks a deviation from the pattern form, they must indicate the addition on the form and provide notice of the attempt to deviate from the pattern form and adhere to the Administrative Office of the Court's Format and Style Rules for Mandatory Forms Developed Pursuant to RCW 13.34.035. A copy of which can be found at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.courts.wa.gov%2Fforms%2Fdocuments%2FDep%2520Format%2520and%2520Style%2520Rules%25202022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

REASON: Pattern forms exist for a reason. They ensure consistent legal proceedings and due process, both of which gives way to fundamental fairness, an understanding of rights and impartiality of legal matters. Pattern forms reinforce the rule of law. If there is an addition to a pattern form, it should be noted in the document and all parties and counsel should be made aware of the deviation. If a party seeks to deviate from the pattern form, they should follow the Administrative Office of the Court's Format and Style Rules for Mandatory Forms Developed Pursuant to RCW 13.34.035. This can be found at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.courts.wa.gov%2Fforms%2Fdocuments%2FDep%2520Format%2520and%2520Style%2520Rules%25202022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

EXAMPLE: Attached is a standard shelter care form utilized by the Bellingham Attorney General's Office and a copy of the Mandatory Shelter Care Pattern Form. In the Attorney General's proposed form, they make a recommendation for services during shelter care. The pattern form does not have a section for recommended services. Both forms allow for the court to order voluntary services. The only part of the mandatory pattern form that includes services for parents is what parents/legal guardians AGREE to do, not what is RECOMMENDED for parents.

This is one example of how the mandatory pattern forms are not utilized by the Attorney General's Office. There is no basis for the AG's office to modify the pattern form, especially without specifically indicating that it is an addition.

I inquired with a member of the Juvenile Dependency Pattern Form Subcommittee and was told that the recommended services section was intentionally removed from

the pattern form by agreement of the Subcommittee. I have attempted to address this outside of court but that was fruitless.

Please compare page 11 of the Bellingham Attorney General's proposed shelter care order and page 10 of the pattern form.