

Family Recovery Court Application Process Information Guide for Attorneys

Thank you for your interest in Family Recovery Court. This guide is to assist attorneys working with parents who are interested in applying to Family Recovery Court.

This is an ongoing process of assessment and improvement of the program and how it can best serve its clients. We encourage you to meet with a team member or to request to join a staffing session for more information about the program if you have any questions about how it can serve your client(s).

The Application Process

The FRC Team lowered the barriers for parents to access the program. There are two ways that an applicant may enter FRC.

The eligibility requirements for FRC are attached in Appendix B.

Clients Who Fall Within the FRC Eligibility Requirements

For applicants who fall squarely within the program's eligibility requirements:

- a) Submit the Expedited Application Form by the end of Monday for your client to participate in the next day's Family Recovery Court and enter into Pre-Phase.
- b) Your client's first court date: Your client must appear in person, at which point they will sign into Pre-Phase as a participant of the program.
- c) Entry into Phase I: By the end of Pre-Phase (typically 1-2 sessions in Family Recovery Court), you and your client must have submitted the written application to the team.

Your client may not fully enter into FRC's main phases until that written application has been submitted to the team. The written application may be submitted along with your expedited application.

Clients Who Require Exceptions to the FRC Eligibility Requirements

The FRC Team will consider applicants who fall outside the standard eligibility requirements, such as due to age of the dependency case or disqualifying criminal history. For applicants requesting an exception be made, you must:

- a) Submit the written application to the team for review. You and your client should work on this together. Make sure you address the last question about why your client believes that an exception should be made.
- b) You are encouraged to join the team staffing where your client's application is discussed. The team will determine whether to:
 - Make an exception and welcome your client into Pre-Phase with FRC;
 - Decline the application; or
 - Request a team interview with your client before making the eligibility determination.
- c) If the team requests an interview, your presence at the staffing will help inform your client as to the team's concerns in preparation for the interview. The team will make the initial determination as outlined above within two weeks of submission of an application.

Participation of Non-Team Attorneys

For attorneys who are not on the FRC team with client-participants, there are three options for you and your client to consider regarding your continued representation:

- You remain the attorney-of-record and participate in all staffings during your client's involvement in the program;
- You remain the attorney-of-record and participate in staffings as requested by the team (typically when your client is struggling, with an expectation of more availability in Pre-Phase through Phase II); or
- A team member who is also a parent's attorney accepts your client's case through a client exchange.

In addition to application materials, FRC's most updated policies and procedures are available through [the court's website](#).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any member of the team.

Appendix A

Recovery Support Services through the Family Recovery Court Treatment Provider

Family Recovery Court's current treatment provider is Catholic Community Services.

Any treatment provider involved with this program is contracted to provide the following assistance through the use of vouchers or sub-contracts with applicable vendors, including but not limited to:

- Basic needs not eligible from public resources (hygiene, clothing, food)
- Child Care
- Dental and Vision Care not eligible for funding from public or insurance sources
- Healthy activities (yoga, physical fitness, clean and sober recreational activities)
- Necessary work incidentals (needed equipment or clothing necessary for a job interview)
- Prescribed medication not eligible for funding from public or insurance sources
- Fiscal support for GED courses and testing fees
- Educational expenses
- Transportation to and from treatment, recovery activities, and educational and employment activities
- Vocational training or certifications required for a specific job
- Hotel or motel assistance in emergent situations
- Up to six months' rent in a sober living environment for participants who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing

Participants are encouraged to discuss any barriers to their recovery with their treatment provider to determine what support services might be able to be provided.

Appendix B

Eligibility Requirements for Family Recovery Court

The standard program eligibility requirements for Family Recovery Court are that applicants:

- ✓ Are 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Have an active dependency case in Skagit County where:
 - the dependency finding was made less than six months ago
 - the child(ren) in the dependency case(s) has/have been out of a parent's home for less than ten months
 - a termination petition has not been filed
- ✓ Agree to participate in the program and sign all required documents for entry (including releases of information and consent forms)
- ✓ Have no pending criminal charges or prior convictions for disqualifying offenses or offenses that would require additional review from the team:
 - are not currently charged with or convicted of offenses enumerated in RCW 2.30.030(3)
 - are not currently charged with or convicted of a felony involving child abuse or kidnapping
 - do not have convictions or current charges for felony offenses involving weapons or assault, significant felony history, or criminal history showing a pattern of domestic violence.
- ✓ Agree for purposes of this process that they have a substance use disorder and are willing to engage in treatment.