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Superior Court  
Of Snohomish County

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-08

ADOPTION OF UNIFIED FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

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Adopted: August 15, 2003  
Updated: June 11, 2008

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Snohomish County Superior Court hereby adopts the following standards for the administration of Unified Family Court program and services.

A. Jurisdiction of Juvenile Court

1. Unified Family Court concurrent jurisdiction over juvenile court and family law actions:
  - a. Unified Actions: In any Title 13 RCW proceeding in which the parent, guardians or legal custodians of the child or children are presently involved in another action affecting the child or children, or anticipate the filing of such an action the Juvenile Court may grant concurrent jurisdiction over those actions and assign those cases to Unified Family Court.
  - b. Assignment of Actions: Where concurrent jurisdiction would facilitate just resolution of common issues between the parties, an eligible case may be assigned to the Unified Family Court upon the motion of a party or upon the Court's own motion.
2. Scope of Concurrent Jurisdiction:
  - a. Any order granting concurrent jurisdiction shall be cross-filed in all actions subject to the order.

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- b. The Court, after notice, hearing and entry of an order with appropriate safeguards concerning dissemination and other appropriate safeguards, may authorize access to Juvenile Court file and to any files and records maintained by the petitioning or supervising agency or the Guardian ad Litem of the child or children.
- c. A grant of concurrent jurisdiction shall not confer party status in an action to parties in another action.
- d. The Guardian ad Litem in the dependency action may be appointed as the child's Guard ad Litem in other actions.
- e. The Unified Family Court may hear and decide all issues presented in the unified actions assigned to the Unified Family Court. When no longer necessary to a just resolution of common issues between the parties, the Unified Family Court may reassign the actions for resolution of other issues that remain between parties.
  1. Preceding that may be heard in Unified Family Court.
    - a. All actions under Title 26 RCW, Title 13 RCW, domestic violence petitions, anti-harassment petitions, truancy actions;
    - b. Court finds good cause for the following: Actions arising from meretricious relationship; actions for the division of marital property interest not previously distributed in a dissolution action; any other action involving a party of child with another case in Unified Family Court.
      - i. Case Priority
        - a. Dissolution of marriage with a parenting plan;
        - b. Modification of parenting plan;
        - c. Paternity actions with parenting plan;
        - d. Domestic violence petitions with children.
      - ii. Court Files, Hearing and Filing of Pleadings
        - a. Case Files, The files for all cases assigned to the program shall be maintained by the Clerk of the Court.

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- b. Hearing: Hearings in matters assigned to the program shall be held at DJJC, unless otherwise directed by the Court.
  - c. Filing of Pleadings: Initial pleading commending a case shall be filed at the courthouse to which the type of case is normally assigned. All subsequent pleadings in a case may be filed at either courthouse.
- iii. Management of Concurrent Cases
  - iv. Assignment of Cases: To the extent practical, and taking into account the use of court commissioners and schedules for judges' rotation, the same judicial officer will be assigned the unified actions of a family. The judge and court commissioner to whom the cases are assigned will be identified at the initial planning conference.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

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Michael T. Downes, Presiding Judge

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