

Preface to 2025-2026 Edition

This 2025-2026 Edition of *Family and Community Property Law Handbook* (Washington Practice, Volumes 22 and 22A) replaces the 2024 Edition of this treatise. These two softbound handbooks are designed to accompany the hardbound Washington Practice volumes on *Family and Community Property Law*, Vols. 19-21. These handbooks contain the court rules, statutes, and forms typically encountered by the family law practitioner, or by judges and commissioners presiding over family law proceedings.

Included are the rules of court typically applicable in family law proceedings, virtually all Washington statutes governing family law proceedings, and selected federal statutes applicable to family law proceedings in state courts.

Also included are Washington's Child Support Schedule, the Washington State Self-Support Reserve, and the Mandatory Family Law Forms.

Statutes and forms reflect changes effective July 27, 2025.

For convenience, the handbooks are split into two volumes. The reference materials that a practicing attorney would want in court (rules, statutes, and child support information) are contained in the first volume. The mandatory forms are contained in the second volume. Highlights of this year's edition include:

Chapters 1 and 2. Selected Court Rules and Statutes

- The court rules and statutes contained in Chapters 1 and 2 have been updated to reflect recent amendments. Note that procedures implemented in many jurisdictions in response to COVID-19 continue to impact court operations and procedures in some jurisdictions in ways that are not reflected in the text of the state-wide court rules; practitioners should continue to regularly check local courts' websites for updates.

- CR 39, which now includes language addressing trials by remote means, has been added.

- Selected provisions of Ch. 2.28 RCWA, Powers of Courts & General Provisions, have been added.

- The Civil Protection Orders Act, codified at Ch. 7.105 RCW, underwent several amendments. Notably, new RCWA 7.105. 352 establishes the Hope card program.

- The new Uniform Custodial Trust Act, codified at Ch. 11.104B RCWA, has been added. The new Act will be discussed as appropriate in the upcoming revisions to Washington Practice: Family and Community Property Law with Forms, Vols. 19-21.

- RCWA 26.09.191 has been completely rewritten, effective July 27, 2025, by HB 1620, and new RCWA 26.09.192 has been added. Amendments to other statutes affected by HB 1620 are also included. A complete discussion of the amendments will be included in upcoming revisions to Washington Practice: Family and Community Property Law with Forms, Vols. 19-21.

- Ch. 28A.605, Parental Access, has been added. Note that while new RCWA 28A.605.005 grants parents the right to receive and inspect curriculum and records, including counselling and other records, certain provisions relating to medical, health, and mental health records have been stayed by an injunction issued in a case currently pending in King County Superior Court. For further information, see the discussion in Washington Practice: Family and Community Property Law with Forms, Vols. 19-21.

Chapter 3. Selected Federal Statutes

The federal statutes in Chapter 3 have been updated to reflect recent amendments, and 10 U.S.C. 1414, relating to concurrent payment of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, has been added.

Chapter 4. Child Support Schedule and Worksheets

- The child support schedule and worksheets effective January 1, 2023, remain in full force and effect but will be changing effective January 1, 2026. Preliminary drafts of the amended schedules may be found in HB 1014 and will be included in future editions of this pamphlet.

- The Washington State Self-Support Reserve is updated to reflect changes effective January 12, 2025. Practitioners should note that HB 1014 includes language increasing the income limit for the presumptive minimum support obligation from 125% of the federal poverty guidelines for a one-person family to 180%, effective January 1, 2026.

Chapter 5. Mandatory Family Law Forms

All of the forms included in Chapter 5 have been reviewed and updated as needed and are current as of July 27, 2025. Nine new forms were added, and approximately 98 forms were substantially amended.

Some of the more prominent revisions and new forms include the following:

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- The civil protection order forms continue to be updated to reflect changes in protection order and restraining order proceedings, including the forms to modify/amend and to renew protection orders.
- Many of the for divorces and parentage cases have been updated, including all the Petition forms.
- The pattern form Parenting Plan (FL All Family 140) has been completely rewritten to comply with the statutory changes implemented by HB 1620. Practitioners should take special care to note that both limitations and the residential schedule, which historically were included in the main body of the parenting plan form, are now included in required attachments.
- The Surrender of Weapons forms have been updated to reflect recent caselaw and procedural changes.
- Many of the mandatory forms for minor guardianships under Ch. 11.130 RCW have been revised to reflect the continuing evolution of the statutory process, and new forms were added.

As always, readers are reminded that use of the pattern forms is mandatory, and counsel should take care to use the most recent version of every form.

Future updates

These handbooks will continue to be updated annually, to reflect the inevitable amendments to rules, statutes, and forms.

Thank you to the many practitioners and judges who have taken the time over the years to comment on the family law hardbound volumes and these handbooks. Please do not hesitate to submit any comments or suggestions to me.

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