

Preface to 2026 Edition

This 2026 Edition of *Family and Community Property Law Handbook* (Washington Practice, Volumes 22 and 22A) replaces the 2025-2026 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 through February 15, 2026.

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 State 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.

- RCWA 26.09.191 and .192 reflect most recent statutory updates but may be affected by proposed legislation currently pending. As always, practitioners should check Westlaw for updates.

- Amendments to Ch. 26.19 RCWA mandated by EHB 1014 (2025) continue to be incorporated. Practitioners should recall the new language at RCWA 26.19.065(2)(c) directing the court to

consider specific enumerated factors before applying the \$50 per month per child minimum payment. Additional statutory changes are not effective until April 1, 2027, and will be incorporated into future editions of this treatise.

- Ch. 28A.605, Parental Access, has been updated. Practitioners should note that parental access is an ongoing issue that continues to be addressed by the legislature and by the courts.

Chapter 3. Selected Federal Statutes

The federal statutes in Chapter 3 have been updated to reflect recent amendments.

Chapter 4. Child Support Schedule and Worksheets

- The child support schedule and worksheets have been revised, effective January 1, 2026, to incorporate changes mandated by HB 1014 (2025). The updates include an updated Approximate Median Net Monthly Income Table, and updated instructions reflecting changes to the limitation standards and calculation of income.

- The Washington State Self-Support Reserve is updated to reflect changes effective January 13, 2026. Practitioners should note that the self-support reserve used to calculate low-income limitations when setting child support increased by \$764/month and is now set at 180 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a one-person family (up from the previous 125 percent).

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 February 15, 2026. Approximately 35 forms were substantially amended.

Key changes include the following:

- The pattern form Child Support Order (FL All Family 130) has been revised to reflect statutory changes and updates.
- All Summons forms have been updated.
- ● The civil protection order forms continue to be updated to reflect ongoing changes in protection order and restraining order proceedings. Note that protection order language applicable when a vulnerable adult objects to the order has been updated.
- To comply with the Supreme Court's amendment to CR 12 (Defenses and Objections), the summons forms have been updated to reflect a 60-day response deadline if a party is served in a jail, detention, or prison facility.
- The mandatory forms for minor guardianships under Ch. 11.130 RCW have been revised to reflect the continuing

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evolution of the statutory process and procedures.

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 each 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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