

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office:	Agenda date	Assigned to:
Originator: COUNTY CLERK		8/9/93	<b>RECEIVED</b>  <b>SEP 8 1993</b>  <b>WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	9/14/93	Council Introduction
Division Head:				9/28/93	Council
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor: DG		8/9/93			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive: h		9/7/93			

**SUBJECT:**

An ordinance imposing a 1993 marriage license fee surcharge to fund family services.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Simmers memo re marriage license fee surcharge and family court services.  
 Washington Laws, 1993: Chapter 451, (new section to RCW 26.04.160 and 1985 s 2, not yet codified);

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Please complete sections of box as appropriate & explain the item below.

Related County contract #: 9212034 & 9212038	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? NO / / YES / X / Requested date:
Amount budgeted for this item/project: \$	Is it (or will it be) within budget? YES / / NO / / (Please explain below)
Budget line item number(s): 3140.6650.905	This is a revenue enhancement, not an expenditure (the revenue would not be enough, alone, to fund the intended service).

Whatcom County presently spends approximately \$60,000 per year on *guardian ad litem* services, independent investigations reported to the court, primarily regarding the welfare of children. It is anticipated that the requested \$15 per marriage license fee surcharge could generate approximately \$15,000, annually, to defray a portion of the costs of the *guardian ad litem* services.

The Superior Court and the County Clerk have realized a substantial benefit through the one-year, grant-funded services of the county's **Family Law Courthouse Facilitator**. The Clerk has recently introduced legislation to provide for a portion of the permanent funding needed to continue the position. The just-introduced legislation would yield approximately \$16,800, annually. That permanent funding, plus the savings in guardian ad litem costs the result of the \$15,000 revenue enhancement proposed in this ordinance, result in an annual net new revenue of approximately \$31,800, enough to permanently fund the Family Law Courthouse Facilitator position, including salary and benefits.

This ordinance implements the filing fees for the remainder of 1993, the unified fee schedule ordinance will establish the fees for 1994 and thereafter.

**ORIGINATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Pass the ordinance assessing the marriage license fee surcharge.

**COMMITTEE ACTION TAKEN:**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:**

9/14/93: Council introduction  
 9/28/93: Council adopted the ordinance. 6-0 (Imhof absent)

**Related File Numbers:**

AB93-309

**Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):** Ord 93-057

INTRODUCED BY: Consent  
PROPOSED BY: County Clerk  
DATE: 9/14/93

ORDINANCE NO. 93-057

ASSESSMENT OF MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE SURCHARGE  
TO  
FUND FAMILY COURT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the 1993 Legislature of the State of Washington has authorized county legislative authorities to assess a marriage license fee surcharge to fund family court services, and,

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Whatcom County Auditor is authorized and directed to assess and collect the maximum marriage license fee surcharge authorized from time to time by RCW 26.04.160, and

NOW BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the fees collected hereby shall be used to fund family court services, and

NOW BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that if a Unified Fee Schedule is adopted and effective prior to January 1, 1994, then the authorization herein granted shall expire at the end of December 31, 1993, and thereafter the authorization and fee provided for herein shall be addressed in the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

PASSED this 28th day of September, 1993.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY WASHINGTON

Mary Laidlaw  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

APPROVED    ( ) VETOED

Ram Ram  
Clerk of the Council

Shirley Van Zanten  
Shirley Van Zanten, County Executive

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Date: 9-29-93

Daniel L. Gibson  
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney