

# Superior Court

## Notice to the Bar & Public

April 4, 2008

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**ATTENTION Law Office Personnel:** Please ensure that ALL staff, attorneys and non-attorneys are aware of the contents of this notice.

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### **Highlighting in Pleadings & Exhibits**

Counsel and parties are reminded that GR 14 prohibits highlighting. *"Papers filed shall not include any colored pages, highlighting or other colored markings."* Highlighting on scanned documents is invisible and any intent meant by highlighting is extinguished. For instance, if a parenting plan has a calendar with certain dates (for custody or visitation) highlighted, NO dates are apparent.

### **Costs of Adoption Decrees, Letters of Guardianship/Administration**

As the result of recent state audits of several Clerk offices it has been determined that the common, but irregular, practice of providing some "free" copies of adoption decrees and letters of guardianship or administration are in violation of statute. Clerks are mandated to charge for certified copies and letters. RCW 36.18.016 (4) & (9) The Whatcom County Clerk will begin collecting all such fees effective April 14, 2008.

### **International Adoptions**

Simplified and concise forms and instructions for international adoptions are now available on the court web site at [www.whatcomcounty.us](http://www.whatcomcounty.us)