

Superior Court

Notice to the Bar and Public

August 26, 2019

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR COURT BENCH AND COURT ADMINISTRATION

- **New edition of Whatcom County Superior Court Local Rules**

We are pleased to announce that the Local Court Rules effective September 1, 2019 are now available. Please download, study, and use these rules to guide your practice and procedures.

We've been working hard to make detailed procedural clarifications in many areas of practice. Highlights include:

- WCCrR 6.8 – Criminal Case Motion and Trial Procedures
- WCCR 7.3 – Shorten Time Procedures
- WCCR 17 – Unlawful Detainer Procedure
- WCCR 40.4 and WCCrR 8.9 – Disqualification of Judge and Case Reassignment
- Clarifications to Guardian ad Litem Grievance Procedure

Regarding WCCR 10.2(h), which authority is granted to the clerk under GR17(a)(2), please note that the Court and Administration have recently agreed to the following which is NOT included in this update to Local Rules, but is the current policy effective immediately:

The Court will accept electronic copies of proposed Orders that have been signed by all parties and counsel in criminal cases, and by all counsel in civil cases. Original signatures will continue to be required from *pro se* (self-represented) parties.

- **Important: CRIMINAL practitioners and staff please note:**

Significant changes have been made to **WCCrR 6.8 – Motion and Trial Procedures**, as well as to **WCCrR 8.9 – Disqualification of Judge**. These procedures are mandatory and they replace the several memos issued in 2018 and 2019. Please note that, in the event of a disqualification or recusal of a judge for cases noted to the Thursday Criminal Calendar, the noting party must arrange a hearing by Special Set for contested, emergent matters only. Special Set hearings depend on judicial availability and are also subject to the availability of jail transport staff.