

**LOCAL COURT RULES FOR OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR KCLICKITAT/SKAMANIA COUNTIES**

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**LOCAL GENERAL / ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**(Cite as LGAR)**

**LGAR 0.1 COURT SCHEDULE – MOTIONS**

Motions and other pre-trial proceedings will be scheduled for hearing on a Law and Motion Docket, unless by prior arrangement through the court administrator.

The calendar shall be prepared and published by the court administrator or his/her designee-assistant on a yearly basis, and shall be distributed to the attorneys under contract, Law and Justice Offices within the courthouse and made available to the public on the county website. The court administrator, as needed to accommodate the judges' schedules and caseload demands, may change the Law and Motion Days and times. Attorneys and parties are advised to consult the calendar, the County Clerk, or the court administrator to confirm Law and Motion Docket dates and times prior to noting a motion.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LGAR 0.2 COURT MANAGEMENT**

**(a) General Management.** The general management of the court shall be vested in the presiding judge under policy established by the judge.

**(b) Presiding Court Rotation.** The presiding judge shall, serve, by alternating weeks, between, Klickitat and Skamania Counties and as specified by the court administrators for special set hearings.

**(c) Duties of the Presiding Judge.** The presiding judge's responsibilities, duties and authority shall be as provided in GR 29 as now or hereafter amended. The presiding judge shall designate and prepare a presiding judge pro tempore to fulfill presiding judge's duties in the event of illness, incapacity, resignation, death or unavailability of the presiding judge. The presiding judge pro tempore shall serve a two-year term.

**(d) Duties of the Court Administrator.** The court administrator shall assist the Presiding judge in his or her administrative responsibilities. Subject to the general supervision of the presiding judge, the court administrator's duties shall include:

- (1)** Administrative control of all non-judicial activities of the court;
- (2)** Establish protocol and manage the process for reimbursement of fees and costs for court-appointed counsel, experts and other services;
- (3)** Case setting and trial calendar management;
- (4)** Preparation and administration of the budget;
- (5)** Coordination with state Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (6)** Assisting the presiding judge in dealing with county governments, bar associations, news media and other public and private groups having a reasonable interest in the administration of the court;
- (7)** Preparation of such reports and compilation of such statistics as may be required by the judges or state Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (8)** Making recommendations to the judges for the improvement of the administration of the court.

**(f) Attire of Counsel and Litigants.** All attorneys appearing before the court (in-person or via remote video technology) or in chambers shall be attired in a manner that is consistent with the current generally prevailing and accepted business attire for professional men and women in the local community. Any attire that is distracting or detrimental to the seriousness of the proceedings or disruptive of decorum should be avoided.

**(g) E-mail communication.** The purpose of this rule is to provide guidelines for the use of e-mail in communicating with court staff. This rule does not apply to the other forms of communication, and does not establish a preference for e-mail communication over any other form of communication.

**(1) Use of judge's individual e-mail address prohibited.** The only address to be used by attorneys, pro se self-represented litigants or others who need to communicate with court staff about a case is the court administrator or administrative assistant's e-mail address. Absent express invitation by the judge, the judge's individual e-mail address is not to be used.

**(2) Guidelines for use of e-mail.** E-mail communication with the department is appropriate in the following typical situations: (i) To obtain a date for an in-court hearing; (ii) To submit proposed orders and/or bench copies (limited to 10 pages or less), if approved by Court Administrator; (iii) To determine the judge's availability; (iv) To determine the availability of equipment needed for trial (such as a video player or speaker phone); (v) To advise the court of a settlement (to be immediately followed by formal written notice pursuant to CR 41(e); and/or (vi) Other matters of a similar nature that would be appropriate to handle by way of a phone call to court staff.

**(3) Ex-parte communication prohibited.** The prohibitions regarding ex parte contact with the court are fully applicable to e-mail communication. If an attorney/party is communicating substantive information to court staff, the e-mail must also be sent to opposing counsel/party and so indicate on its face. Substantive information includes information regarding the likelihood of settlement, the timing of witnesses, anticipated problems with scheduling, concerns regarding security and other case-specific issues.

**(4) Electronic service of working copies and pleadings.**

**(A)** Absent prior permission of the court, e-mail may not be used to provide bench or working copies of legal pleadings, including jury instructions. E-mail submissions of bench or working copies are limited to 10 pages. E-mail submissions of bench or working copies to the judge requires that all parties to the case are copied in the e-mail, including any attachment. Any e-mail which fails to copy all parties will be deleted without review.

**(B)** There shall be no editorial, comment or argument included in the emails; however, information as to the time, date and docket of the matter shall be permitted.

**(C)** Submission by e-mail is an accommodation and in no case shall it be a requirement for any party to submit any document via e-mail, absent a specific court order. Parties are still encouraged to provide a hard copy of any working or bench copies for judges to the court administrator or administrative assistant.

**(D) Retention of e-mail.** The Court is not obligated to retain any electronic communications.

**(E) KLINKITAT COUNTY ONLY.** Bench copies and orders can be submitted by email in accordance with the Klickitat County Clerk's Office policy and procedures contained on the clerk's website,

<https://www.klickitatcounty.gov/186/County-Clerk>. Bench copies or orders may also be submitted via regular mail to Superior Court at 205 S. Columbus, RM 206, Goldendale, WA 98620, or delivered in person to the Klickitat County Clerk's office. The Clerk's office will provide your bench copies/orders to the Court on your behalf.

**(f) Reimbursement of fees and costs for Court-appointed attorneys, experts and other services.**

**(1) Process.** All persons requesting reimbursement of fees and costs for court-appointed attorney services, court-appointed investigator services, court-appointed expert services, court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) services and other services as appointed by the court shall comply with protocol established by the Court Administrator. Presiding Judge shall review and approve or deny all authorizations and orders for reimbursement.

**(2) Limits.** Party requesting reimbursement of fees and costs is responsible for ensuring that amount incurred for services does not exceed the amount authorized by the court. Fees or costs in amount authorized will not be paid, unless prior authorization is approved by the court.

**(3) Failure to Comply with Protocol.** Failure to comply with the protocol established by the Court Administrator could result in denial or delay of authorization.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended September 1, 2025]

**LGAR 0.3 COURT HEARINGS**

**(a) Testimony.**

**(1) Excusing Witnesses.** A witness subpoenaed to attend in any case, criminal or civil is dismissed and excused from further attendance as soon as he/she has given his/her testimony in chief. Witness fees will not be allowed for any witness after the day on which his/her testimony is given except when the witness has, in open Court, been required to remain in further attendance. When so required, the Clerk shall note that fact in the record and the witness will be paid by the court for additional testimony. If the adverse party requests a witness to remain in attendance he/she shall thereafter be responsible for the cost and expense occasioned thereby.

**(b) Prohibition on Recording Remote Audio or Video Proceedings.**

**(1)** All lawyers, litigants, participants, or observing members of the press or public are prohibited from taking photographs or recording video or audio during remote proceedings, except with written authorization by the judge presiding over the hearing.

**(2)** No person participating in, or listening to, such a remote audio or video proceeding may rebroadcast, live-stream, or otherwise disseminate any live or recorded audio or video of the court proceeding, except with written authorization by the judge presiding over the hearing.

**(3)** Violation of the provisions of this section may subject the offender to removal, contempt of court, and such other penalties as are provided by law.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LGAR 0.4 GUARDIANSHIPS**

**(a) Confidential information sheet.** Any person appointed as a guardian shall complete a confidential information sheet.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

#### **LGAR 0.5 WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS IN CHILD CUSTODY MATTERS**

**(a) Rule to Control in Conjunction with RCW 7.36.** This local rule shall, in conjunction with Chapter 7.36, control the procedure and legal right to retain custody of a child in Skamania or Klickitat County, Washington through a writ of habeas corpus.

**(b) Who may Petition.** Only a person or entity with a previously established right to custody of a child will be granted a writ of habeas corpus. The applicant must be able to document the pre-existing legal right to custody of the child paramount to the right of any other person or entity. The pre-existing custody order must be issued by a court of competent jurisdiction and have been obtained through a court action where the other party had notice of the action and the opportunity to be heard.

**(c) Forms.** Applicants for Writs of Habeas Corpus in Child Custody matters shall use exclusively those forms approved by the Klickitat/Skamania County Superior Court available at either Klickitat County Clerk's Office and/or Skamania County Clerk's Office including the Sealed Source Missing Child Information Declaration.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

#### **LGAR 0.6 EX-PARTE MATTERS**

**(a)** All matters that a party is requesting to be reviewed ex parte shall be provided to the Clerk's office. The clerk will arrange with the court administrator for a judicial officer to review the requested matter.

**(b)** Ex parte matter requests shall not be sent directly to the court administrator, unless specifically requested to by the court administrator. Any materials sent to the court administrator that were not specifically requested by the court administrator shall be returned to the party sending the materials to the court administrator.

**(c)** If no self-addressed stamped return envelope is provided with the materials, the party providing the materials must make arrangements to immediately pick up the materials. Materials not picked up within 48 hours, unless other time frame arranged with the court administrator, shall be deemed abandoned and destroyed.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

#### **LGAR 0.7 LOWER COURT APPEALS**

**(a) Anders Briefs.** Upon filing of an Anders Brief, attorneys must provide a copy of their filed Anders Brief to the appellant (their client) with instructions that they have 30 days to raise any issues that they client may deem appropriate to raise in context of their appeal.

**(1) Proof of Service.** Attorneys must file proof of service that they provided a copy of the Anders Brief, along with instructions to file any response within 30 days, to the appellant. Service can be effectuated in any manner that is most reasonably likely to provide notice to the appellant.

**(2) Ruling on Anders Brief.** If no response is received from appellant raising meritorious issues, the court shall issue a written ruling without oral argument.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

#### **LGAR 11 COURT INTERPRETERS**

**(a) Oath.** Non-certified interpreters shall be administered an oath prior to providing interpreter services during a court hearing.

**(b) Requesting an Interpreter.** A written request must be to the Court Administrator at least two weeks in advance of hearing or trial. Requests can be emailed to the Court Administrator. More advanced notice should be provided for specialized languages, hearings anticipated to last longer than 20 minutes or if multiple interpreters needed. If these guidelines are not followed, an interpreter may not be available for the hearing and/or trial.

**(1)** The request for an interpreter should include at a minimum the following information:

**(A)** Date, time, estimated length and type of hearing;

**(B)** Language needed.

**(c) Cancellation of Hearing.** If a hearing is cancelled, continued or interpreter services are not needed for the hearing, the requesting party must immediately notify the Court Administrator. Failure to do so, absent good cause, at least two (2) days prior to the hearing/trial (or other time frame set by the Court Administrator) may result in the requesting party being charged for the cost of the interpreter if the interpreter cannot be cancelled without a fee.

**(d)** The court administrator shall not have any legal obligation to acquire the services of an interpreter in any proceeding that it is not mandatory for the court to provide an interpreter.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

#### **LGAR 19 VIDEO CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

##### **(a) Remote Appearances**

(1) "Remote Appearance" means a video or telephonic audio appearance in which all participants can simultaneously hear and speak as authorized by the court. Remote appearances shall be deemed held in open court and in any party's presence for purposes of any statute, court rule, or policy. All remote appearances conducted as authorized by the court, by court rule or policy shall be public, and the public shall be able to simultaneously hear all participants and speak as permitted by the trial court judge. When the public appears remotely, members of the public shall not enable their video to be visible to other participants absent a finding of good cause and order of the court.

##### **(2) Authorization for Remote Appearance.**

(A) Authorization for remote appearance is discretionary with the Court and may be granted upon the following conditions: (i) Express approval is obtained by the Judge who is hearing the motion; (ii) Request using the Request for Remote Appearance (Exemplar #5) is mailed or emailed at least five (5) court days in advance of hearing or trial, unless good cause shown, to the Court Administrator; and (iii) (SKAMANIA COUNTY ONLY) payment of \$25.00 non-refundable administrative fee is received prior to hearing, unless waived by the court.

(B) Any party may request all parties appear in person, which may in the judge's discretion be granted.

(C) The court retains discretion to order attorneys and/or participants to appear in person.

**(3) Standards for Remote Appearance Proceedings.**

(A) All participants are expected to follow court orders, court rules, and policies on appropriate courtroom decorum during remote appearances.

(B) Judge, counsel, all parties, and participants attending the hearing must be able to hear and speak as authorized by the court during proceedings.

(C) Video Appearances. Local court rules or the court may require that a remote appearance take place over video. The audio and video should be of sufficient quality to ensure that the audio and video connections are clear and intelligible.

(D) Telephonic Appearances. The court may allow a participant to appear remotely with only an audio connection. The connection should be of sufficient quality to ensure participants are clearly audible. Telephonic appearances shall otherwise have the same requirements as indicated for video appearances.

(E) Court Interpreter. In interpreted proceedings, the proceeding must be conducted to assure that the interpreter can hear all participants.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2023]

**LGAR 27 COURTHOUSE FACILITATORS**

**(a) Generally.** The Superior Court of each county shall establish and administer a courthouse facilitator program. The Court Administrator shall establish a protocol for administering the program within each county. The Court Administrator, and/or his or her designee, shall serve as the courthouse facilitator.

**(g) Fees.** The Court Administrator shall establish a fee schedule for providing program services. The fee payable to the clerk's office is non-refundable. The fee may be waived by the Presiding Judge and shall only be waived in extraordinary circumstances.

**(h) Scheduling Appointments.** Appointments shall be scheduled by contacting the court administrator office. The courthouse facilitator shall designate a date and time to meet with requesting party. The required fee, unless waived by the Presiding Judge, shall be paid prior to the meeting or the meeting will be stricken.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

**LGAR 30 ELECTRONIC FILING AND SERVICE**

**(a) Electronic Signatures**

**(1)** "Electronic signature" means a digital signature as described in Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-596 (July 16, 2019) and RCW 9A.72.085(5) (repealed); an electronic image of the handwritten signature of an individual; stamp; or other electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record, including but not limited to "/s/ [name of signatory]."

**(2) Authorization for Judicial Officers.** Whenever an order, judgment, notification or other document requires the signature of a judicial officer, use of an electronic signature shall be an acceptable means for signing the order, judgment, notification or other document and shall have the same force and effect as an original handwritten signature.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2023]

## **LGAR 31 ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS**

### **(a) Personal Identifiers Omitted or Redacted from Court Records.**

**(3)** The complete names of minor children is necessary for the orderly administration of justice and such complete names shall be used on all court documents except where prohibited by statute or court order. This rule does not prohibit the use of initials to identify child victims or witnesses in criminal or juvenile offender proceedings.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

## **LGAR 40 INFORMAL FAMILY LAW TRIAL (IFLT)**

(1) Upon consent of all parties, the court may allow an Informal Family Law Trial (IFLT), as provided by Washington Court Rule GR 40. All parties must file a Trial Process Selection and Waiver for IFLT, which is available on the Superior Court website. For more information on IFLT, please see the Superior Court website.

(5) Parties who opt-in for an informal trial will provide a physical copy of their “Family Law Informal Trial Selection to the other party, the court, and file the original with the Clerk’s office.

[Effective September 1, 2025]

## **LOCAL CIVIL RULES**

**(Cite as LCR)**

### **LCR 4.1 DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, DECLARATIONS, AUTOMATIC ORDERS**

**(a) Cases in which Declaration Accepted.** A declaration will be accepted in lieu of testimony in cases in which parties have stipulated to entry or in default cases in which the relief requested is the same as the relief requested in the Petition for dissolution. In those cases, in which the relief requested is different or more specific than the original petition, and the respondent has defaulted, the party requesting relief which varies from the petition must appear on the civil docket and present testimony in support of the request, with a decision to be made by the judge or commissioner. The declaration in lieu of testimony must be made after the expiration of the ninety (90) day period.

**(b) Standards and Worksheets.** Prior to hearing an application for any support or maintenance, the parties shall prepare, serve and file applicable worksheets in accordance with RCW 26.19 taking into consideration the standards for determination of child support as published by the Washington State Child Support Commission.

**(c) Scope of Hearings.** A show cause order or citation may include notice of hearing of all relief sought by the applicant. All temporary hearings shall be heard only on affidavit unless otherwise ordered by the court.

**(d) Motions. Forms.** Mandatory forms shall be used. Supporting affidavits shall be limited to 4 per party excluding affidavits from expert witnesses. Affidavits from parties shall not exceed 6 pages, excluding attachments, and supplemental affidavits shall not exceed 2 pages, excluding attachments. There is a strong preference that all affidavits and declarations be typewritten. If typed, the format shall be 12 point or larger and 1.5 line spacing or greater.

**(e) Children's statements.** Declarations by minors are disfavored.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCR 6 TIME.**

**(d) Motions and Other Papers.**

**(1) Scope of Rules.** Except when specifically provided in another rule, this rule governs all motions in civil cases.

**(2) Dates of Filing, Hearing and Consideration.**

**(A) Filing and Scheduling of Motion.**

**(i)** The moving party shall serve and file all motion papers no later than ten (10) court days before the date the party wishes the motion to be considered. A motion must be scheduled by a party for hearing on an appropriate motion docket for the type of matter to be heard.

**(ii) Opposing Papers.** Any party opposing a motion shall file the original responsive papers in opposition to a motion, serve copies on parties and deliver any working copies to the judge no later than 10:00 a.m. five (5) court days before the date the motion is to be heard.

**(iii) Reply.** Any papers in strict reply shall be filed, copies served on parties, and any working copies delivered to the hearing judge no later than 10:00 a.m. two (2) court days before the date of the hearing.

**(B) Working Copies.** The working copies of all papers shall be marked on the upper right corner of the first page with the date, time of hearing and the name of the judge.

**(i) Hard Copies:** Working copies of the motion and all papers in support or opposition, if provided, shall be delivered to the judge who is to hear the motion no later than the day they are to be served on all other parties, for Klickitat County at 205 S. Columbus, Rm 206, Goldendale, WA 98620. Skamania County at 240 NW Vancouver Ave. Stevenson, WA 98648.

**(ii) Electronic Copies:** Email transmission must get authorization from the court administrator. Electronic copies are limited to 10 pages.

**(C) Sanctions.** Any material offered at a time later than required by this rule, and any reply material which is not in strict reply, will not be considered by the Court over objection of counsel except upon the imposition of appropriate sanctions, unless the Court orders otherwise.

**(3) Conference and Striking a Hearing/Continuance**

**(A) Conference.** After an initial summons has been served, the court will not schedule any motion in a civil case unless the moving party has made a good faith effort to confer with the opposing party regarding availability of the non-moving party. Any pleading that requests the court schedule a hearing shall include the moving party's certification that the conference requirements of this rule have been met.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended September 1, 2025]

## **LCR 10 FORM OF PLEADINGS.**

**(d) Format Requirements.** In addition to the General Rules' requirements for Format for Pleadings and Other Papers (GR14), all briefs must comply with the following requirements:

(1) **Length of Brief.** Without prior authorization from the court, the total length of all declarations (including those within mandatory forms and affidavits supporting motions, responses, or memoranda) is limited to fifteen (15) pages. Reply briefs for these matters shall not exceed ten (10) pages. Opening and responding briefs for non-dispositive motions shall not exceed eight (8) pages

**(2) Excluded Documents.** The following documents are excluded from this fifteen (15)-page limit:

- a) Exhibits
- b) Guardian Ad Litem or expert witness declarations and reports
- c) Mandatory forms or legal memoranda/briefs (without declarations)
- d) Deposition excerpts (must be cited by page and line number)

**(3) Overlength documents.** To submit an overlength document, a party must present a written ex parte motion and order requesting to exceed the page limit (Clerk's fees will apply). If more than one motion is to be heard simultaneously, the page limit applies to the entire hearing, not each individual motion.

## **(e) Format Recommendations.**

### **(3) Bottom notation.**

**(A)** Self-represented litigant pleadings shall be typewritten or neatly printed, shall conform to the format recommendations of CR 10(e), and shall contain the party's telephone number(s), mailing address and street address where service of process and other papers may be made upon him/her or the same may be rejected for filing by the clerk.

**(7) Clerk's Action Required.** All pleadings requiring action by the Clerk of Court, other than file stamping and docketing, shall contain the language **CLERK'S ACTION REQUIRED** in the caption beneath the case number and heading on the first page of the document and should to the extent possible identify the section requiring clerk's action.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended September 1, 2025]

## **LCR 16 PRETRIAL PROCEDURES AND FORMULATING ISSUES**

**(c)** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all pre-trial conferences shall be conducted at least two weeks before trial.

**(d)** Attorneys for all parties shall personally attend the pre-trial conference unless the Court orders the conference to be heard by telephone.

**(e)** The pre-trial conference shall be conducted by the Judge informally and shall not be recorded unless so ordered.

**(f) Settlement Conference.** Settlement conferences are encouraged but voluntary and may be requested in writing by any party by filling out the Settlement Conference Request Form (Exemplar #3), filing with the clerk and submitting a copy of the form to the court administrator. Settlement Conference will only be set if agreed to by all parties.

**(1)** The Court Administrator shall designate the settlement conference Judge and set the date, place, and provide notice at least two weeks before the trial.

**(2)** Settlement conferences may be held before a Court Commissioner, Judge or Pro-Tem Judge as determined by the court.

**(3)** All attorneys, parties including representatives from any insurer shall be personally present or immediately available to the attorneys representing them by telephone.

**(4)** Proceedings of the settlement conference shall be privileged and not reported or recorded. No party shall be bound unless a settlement is reached. When a settlement has been reached, the Judge may, in his or her discretion, order the settlement agreement to be recorded or reported. The Judge or Commissioner, presiding over a settlement conference, shall be disqualified from acting as a Trial Judge in the matter unless all parties otherwise agree in writing or in open Court on the record.

**(5)** At least ten (10) days before the settlement conference each party shall supply a confidential position statement to the settlement judge. The statement shall include:

**(A)** A general factual summary of the case (provide copies of the relevant pleadings, including any motions filed to date);

**(B)** Disputed and admitted facts;

**(C)** Description of legal issues, together with authorities; and

**(D)** Description of what you believe would be a fair settlement of the outstanding dispute, and set forth in detail the significant obstacles to a settlement.

**(E)** In domestic relations cases, the party's position, in precise terms, concerning issues of:

**(i)** property;

**(ii)** debts;

**(iii)** maintenance;

**(iv)** child support;

**(v)** parenting plan; and

**(vi)** any other matters requiring resolution.

**(6)** The confidential position statement is not to be filed with the court clerk nor provided to the other party. The confidential position statements will be kept confidential by the judge/commissioner in chambers and will be destroyed at the conclusion of the settlement conference.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

#### **LCR 40 ASSIGNMENT OF CASES**

##### **(a) Notice of Trial and Certificate of Readiness.**

**(1)** Any party desiring to bring an issue of fact to trial shall serve and file a properly completed Note for Trial Setting/Certificate of Readiness/Statement of Arbitrability. (Exemplar #1)

**(A)** The party filing a Note for Trial Setting/Certificate of Readiness/Statement of Arbitrability (Exemplar #1) must serve a copy on the opposing party(s) and court administrator; and

**(B)** Proof of service on the opposing party shall be filed.

**(2)** If no objection to the Note for Trial Setting is received by the Court Administrator within ten days of service on the opposing party(s), the Court Administrator will then find an appropriate date for scheduling the trial and notify all parties of the trial date. Any objection to setting of trial shall be submitted on Objection to Trial Setting / Statement of Arbitrability form. (Exemplar #2)

**(A)** The court administrator may remove a case from the active trial setting list, due to the lack of action or the inability to set a trial due to incorrect or missing party information after a period of 12 months. The note for trial setting will be retained in a separate file and reviewed periodically over the next six months. If no action is taken on the case within the timeframe, the court administrator will remove the case from the trial setting calendar and a new note for trial will be required to set a new trial.

**(d) Trials.** Trial briefs are strongly encouraged and shall be filed and served three days or more before trial; the original to be filed, one copy for the Judge to be served on the appropriate Court Administrator and one copy served on opposing counsel.

**(e) Continuances.**

(1) Each party is allowed one request for a change of trial date without hearing, if the objection to trial date is made within ten (10) days after date trial is set. Any objection of trial date shall be submitted on Objection to Trial Setting / Statement of Arbitrability form. (Exemplar #2) Additional changes may be allowed for good cause shown upon motion to the Court.

**(g) Confirmation of Trials.** It shall be the responsibility of the parties to confirm that their trial will proceed on the scheduled trial date. Confirmation shall be made by telephone or email to the Superior Court Administrator's Office at least ten (10) court days prior to scheduled trial date. Confirmation for Klickitat County trials shall be made to (509) 773-5755 or superiorcourtadmin@klickitatcounty.org. Confirmation for Skamania County trials shall be made to (509) 427-3765 or bell@co.skamania.wa.us.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended September 1, 2025]

**LCR 41 DISMISSAL OF ACTIONS**

**(e) Notice of Settlement.** It shall be the obligation of counsel in all civil and criminal jury and non-jury cases to notify the Court Administrator when a case is settled or otherwise will not come on for trial as scheduled. Such notice shall be made by email to the Court Administrator and contain confirmation by both parties. At that time, the Administrator will strike the trial.

(1) **Civil Jury –Cost after untimely cancelation.** If the trial has been canceled, because of a settlement, or will not be tried for any reason or without jury, and no notification to the Clerk or Court Administrator occurs after a jury has been notified to report in less than one full judicial day prior to the time set for the trial. The number of jurors actually reporting for the trial may in the Court's discretion, discharge each party with an equal share of the per diem cost of one day's service. The forgoing costs will not be waived except upon a showing of exceptional circumstances, which causes an excuse and delay of notification. The Court, in its discretion may make a charge against either or both parties together with any additional costs reasonably incurred in anticipation of trial including, but not limited to, travel expenses and loss of earnings of witnesses and the like.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

**LCR 43 TAKING OF TESTIMONY**

**(e) Evidence on Motions.**

(1) **Generally.** Motions for temporary support, attorney's fees and costs, restraining orders, injunctions, to dissolve injunctions and to quash or dissolve attachments shall be heard only on the pleadings, affidavits or declarations, published depositions and other papers filed unless the court otherwise directs.

**(m) Trial Exhibits.**

(1) **Marked in Advance of Trial Date.** In all contested matters, the parties shall provide all exhibits, except such exhibits as are intended for impeachment purposes, to be marked for identification by the Clerk by 3:00 PM one (1) business day prior to trial. Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s) shall be pre-assigned exhibit numbers 1-100 and Defendant(s)/Respondent(s) shall be pre-assigned exhibit 101-200. In a

case where there are additional parties, the Clerk will pre-assign additional exhibit increments. An exhibit list shall be given to the Clerk when the exhibits are presented for marking.

**(2) Copies.** Copies of all documents offered as exhibits, except large maps or drawings, shall be prepared and presented to opposing counsel, any self-represented parties and to the judge at such time as the exhibits are offered into evidence (unless previously provided based upon agreement of the parties); provided that, with the permission of the other party, the judge's and opposing party's courtesy copies may be provided before or at the commencement of the trial.

**(3) Withdrawal of Exhibits.** After final judgment, if the time for appeal has elapsed and no appeal has been taken, the court, upon application of any party or other person entitled to the possession of one or more exhibits, may in its discretion order the withdrawal of such exhibit or exhibits and delivery thereof to such party or other person.

**(4) Return or Destruction of Exhibits.** When judgment in a civil case shall become final after an appeal or upon judgment or dismissal, or upon filing a satisfaction of judgment, the Clerk, on stipulation of the party submitting the exhibit, shall return all exhibits and unopened depositions or destroy them. The court shall enter an order accordingly.

**(5) Records in Administrative Appeals.** Records of proceedings and exhibits filed as the record in an appeal of any administrative hearing shall be presumed to be exhibits to the file in the superior court. Any video conference tapes or audio tapes shall have a transcript filed in addition to the video or audio tape.

**(6) Remote Hearings.** All exhibits intended to be offered at a hearing in which a party, an attorney or a witness is authorized to appear remotely shall be provided to the clerk prior to the hearing for marking. The exhibit also must be provided to all parties and any witness that will be testifying regarding the exhibit prior to the hearing.

**(7) Electronic Exhibits.** Digital/electronic information (i.e., video or audio files - not electronic copies of documents) offered as exhibits must be submitted on a clean/empty flash drive used only for this purpose, with only one file or item per device. Both the device and the file must be clearly marked using the same identifying information as listed on the exhibit list prepared by the offering party. (This rule relates to the submission of the exhibit, not the playing of the file, which must be addressed with Court Administration.)

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

## **LCR 47 JURORS**

### **(e) Challenge.**

#### **(2) Peremptory Challenges Defined.**

**(A)** The exercise or waiver of peremptory challenges shall be exercised silently without disclosing the juror being challenged. The plaintiff first and then defendant alternately identifying challenged juror upon a sheet furnished by the bailiff. The parties shall sign the peremptory challenge sheet. The Clerk and the Court are given the document with no disclosure to the jury as to the challenging party. The peremptory challenge sheet shall be filed with the court.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

## **LCR 49 VERDICTS**

**(k) Receiving Verdict During Absence of Counsel.** A party or attorney desiring to be present at the return of a jury verdict must remain in attendance at the courthouse or be available by telephone. If a party or attorney fails to appear within 20 minutes of telephone notice to the attorney's office, home or

other number, the court may proceed to take the verdict in the absence of such party or attorney. In such case, the jury shall be individually polled and the identity of any dissenting jurors recorded.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

## **LCR 51 INSTRUCTIONS TO JURY AND DELIBERATION**

**(b) Submission.** Counsel is requested by the Court to prepare and deliver to the Court and opposing counsel by 4:30 p.m. the court day preceding the date set for trial, the required number of copies of proposed instructions. Washington Pattern Jury Instructions are recommended for use whenever possible. Counsel is requested to prepare instructions as follows:

- (1)** One original with citations shall be assembled into a set, numbered, and shall be filed with the Clerk;
- (2)** One copy of the originals with citations that is filed with the court shall be served on opposing counsel;
- (3)** One copy of the originals with citations shall be delivered to the Judge; and
- (4)** One copy without citations and numbers shall be delivered to the Judge.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

## **LCR 52 DECISIONS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **(a) Requirements.**

**(6) Time.** Unless the judge has included formal findings of fact and conclusions of law in a written opinion or memorandum of decision pursuant to CR 52(a)(4) or they are otherwise unnecessary by reason of CR 52(a)(5), the attorney of record for the prevailing party shall prepare proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, along with the proposed form of decree, order or judgment as required by CR 54(e). At the time of the decision, the court may enter an order fixing a date by which the proposed findings, conclusions and decree, order or judgment shall be prepared and served and may establish a date of presentation.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

## **LCR 53.2 COURT COMMISSIONERS**

**(d) Powers of Court Commissioners.** Superior Court Commissioners shall have the Power, authority and jurisdiction in adult criminal cases to accept pleas in accordance with RCW 2.24.040.

### **(e) Revision by Court**

**(1) Motion Content and Service Deadlines.** A party seeking revision of a Court Commissioner's ruling shall, within ten days of entry of the written order, file and serve a Motion for Revision. The motion must set forth specific grounds for each claimed error and argument and legal authorities in support thereof. The motion shall be accompanied by a copy of the order for which revision is sought, along with a designation of all pleadings which were before the Commissioner in support, or in opposition in the original proceedings. A copy of the motion and all supporting documents shall be provided to all other parties to the proceedings and to the Court Administrator who shall refer the motion to the appropriate Judge for consideration. The responding party shall have five court days from the receipt of the motion to file a written response with the Clerk and provide copies to all other parties and to the Court Administrator.

**(2) Transcript Required.** Five court days after the responding party files their written response, the moving party shall file a transcript of the hearing before the commissioner, serve a copy on all opposing parties, and provide a copy to the Court Administrator who shall forward it to the judge

deciding the motion. The person preparing the transcript shall certify, under penalty of perjury, that it is an accurate transcription of the record.

**(3) Review is De Novo.** Review of the Commissioner's order shall be de novo based on the pleadings and transcript submitted and without oral argument unless requested by the reviewing Judge.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2023]

## **LCR 56 SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

### **(c) Motion and Proceedings.**

**(1) Scheduling.** Prior to noting a motion for summary judgment, a specific date and time shall be obtained from the Court Administrator.

**(2) Confirmation Process.** In the event a motion for summary judgment is to be argued, counsel for moving party must notify the court administrator, in person or by telephone, by 4:30 p.m. two court days prior to the hearing; otherwise, the matter will be stricken. If no opposition is anticipated, the assigned Judge should be so informed.

**(3) Time.** The judge hearing the motion will determine the amount of time allowed each party for oral argument at the summary judgment hearing. Unless otherwise indicated by the judge, oral argument may not exceed 20 minutes per party.

**(i) Sanctions.** Failure to strictly adhere to this rule may result in the hearing being stricken. Late responses stricken, or not considered in ruling on the motion, terms and/or such other sanctions as the Court in its discretion may deem appropriate.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020, Amended September 1, 2025]

## **LCR 59 NEW TRIAL, RECONSIDERATION, REVISION, AND AMENDMENT OF JUDGMENTS**

### **(e) Hearing on Motion.**

**(3) Nature of Hearing.** A motion for reconsideration shall be submitted on briefs and affidavits only, without oral argument, unless the trial judge, on written application from the attorney or on their motion, allows oral argument. The original, of such motion, which must be made within the time limits set forth in CR 59, shall be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office and a copy delivered to Court Administration, the opposing party and/or their attorney at the time of filing. Any response shall be filed within 14 days after receipt of the motion for reconsideration. The original and a copy of any response thereto shall be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office and thereafter a copy delivered to Court Administration, opposing party and/or their attorney, in accordance with CR 59. The trial judge shall either rule and advise the attorneys of the ruling or advise the attorneys of desired proceedings pursuant to CR 59.

### **(4) Revision of Commissioner Rulings**

**(A)** All motions to revise the ruling of a commissioner shall be de novo on the record based only on the materials considered by the commissioner.

**(B)** The motion must be filed within ten (10) calendar days of the commissioner's order and a copy delivered to Superior Court Administration, the opposing party and /or their attorney at the time of filing. The motion must include the following:

**(i)** statement of the issue(s) on which review is sought;

**(ii)** A brief statement of why the moving party is seeking revision;

(iii) A transcript, prepared by a court-approved transcriptionist (see list of court approved transcriptionists on the court's website), of the hearing before the commissioner, unless waived by the court ex parte (off the record, through the judicial assistant) for good cause shown. When a transcript is waived, the recording of the commissioner's hearing must be provided to the judge and served on any opposing parties; and

(iv) A designation of the record (a list of documents, pleadings and exhibits) considered by the commissioner.

(C) The motion to revise must be heard within thirty (30) days of the filing of the motion, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Oral arguments on the motion are limited to ten (10) minutes per side, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(D) No additional affidavits or other materials may be filed other than a brief memorandum setting forth the legal issue and argument of the parties.

(E) Judge's copies of all materials in (b), and any memoranda, must be provided to the assigned judge's judicial assistant at the time the material is filed.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended September 1, 2025]

## **LCR 77 SUPERIOR COURTS AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS**

(d) **Superior Courts Always Open.** There shall be one continuous session of Court from January 1 to December 31 of each year as designated by the State Supreme Court, except December 24 to January 2 shall be Winter Holiday recess. No contested cases or matters will be set for trial or tried during said period except by consent of the parties and the Court. During Winter Holiday recess, law and motion days shall be scheduled at the direction of the Court, and motions noted shall be regularly heard.

### **(f) Sessions.**

(1) Klickitat County—9:00 AM-12:00PM, 1:00 PM- 5:00 PM; recesses are called as needed.

(2) Skamania County—9:00AM- 12:00PM, 1:00 PM- 5:00PM; recesses are called as needed.

(3) A citation or request for placement of any matter on the regularly scheduled motion calendar's in Klickitat County or Skamania County shall be in writing and filed three working days prior to the scheduled motion calendar, excluding holidays and weekends.

(k) **Motion Day—Local Rules.** Matters not regularly noted on the motion calendar will not be heard except by consent of all parties and the Court, and then heard only after all matters regularly noted shall be called and disposed of. Nothing in this rule should be interpreted as affecting the notice of Civil Rules for Superior Courts or Criminal Rules for Superior Courts.

(1) Presentation of Law and Motion matters shall be limited to a hearing time of ten minutes for each side. Matters requiring argument longer than twenty minutes will need to be scheduled on a special hearing date to be set by the Court Administrator.

(2) Ex-Parte matters are sent in the mail with a check for the Clerk's judicial signature fee, and placed on the ex-parte desk for review.

**(3)** Parties bringing ex-parte paperwork to the Court for signature need to call the Court administrator's office to arrange a time when the Judge or his designee is available. Testimony will not be taken unless ordered by the Court upon application or as required by statute.

**(4)** All hearings that are to be held in courts outside of the county where the case has been filed shall be coordinated through the Klickitat/Skamania County Court Administrator. The Court Administrator shall then notify the clerk's office in which the case has been filed of the out-of-county hearing, date and time.

**(o) Trial Status.** Not less than ten (10) days prior to any scheduled trial, each counsel or self-represented party shall contact the court administrator to advise the status of the case and of settlement negotiations, if any, and whether it is anticipated trial will take place as scheduled.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

## **LCR 79 BOOKS AND RECORDS KEPT BY THE CLERK**

### **(d) Other Books and Records of Clerk.**

**(1) Exhibits.** Exhibits shall be kept separately from the court file. Any inspection of an exhibit must be in the presence of the clerk or a deputy clerk unless authorized by a court order.

**(A) Court Records as Exhibits.** No original court record shall be admitted as an exhibit, but a copy may be admitted.

**(B) Substituted Copies of Exhibits.** For cause shown, the court may permit a copy of any document admitted in evidence to be substituted for the original.

**(C) Exhibit packaging and labeling.** Exhibits containing blood borne pathogens, drugs, firearms or dangerous weapons shall be properly packaged and labeled before acceptance by the court. To meet packaging and labeling requirements, exhibits shall conform to the following criteria when presented:

**(i)** Blood borne pathogens shall be packaged in sturdy plastic containers. If contained in a vial or hypodermic, each shall be placed in an individual sturdy plastic container. All items shall be labeled to identify the contents as potentially biologically hazardous material.

**(ii)** Drugs shall be placed in sealed containers to prevent or reduce emissions from the container. Plainly visible labels shall identify the contents.

**(iii)** Firearms shall be unloaded, and contain a breach mechanism.

**(D) Rejection of Unsuitable Materials.** When the Clerk is uncertain as to whether material is suitable for filing pursuant to CR 5(i), he or she shall seek the advice of the presiding judge before filing the same.

**(E) Return of Contraband Exhibits.** At the conclusion of all proceedings, any contraband (alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, controlled substances, weapons, fish or wildlife parts) being held by the Clerk as part of the record in any criminal case, the court may order the Clerk to deliver such contraband or substances to an authorized representative of the law enforcement agency initiating the prosecution for disposition process. The Clerk shall then deliver the contraband and take from the law enforcement agency a receipt that shall be filed in the case. The Clerk shall also file any certificate issued and received by an authorized federal or state agency showing the nature of such contraband or substances.

**(F) Return of Administrative Record on Appeal.** When a case for review of an administrative record is finally completed, the Clerk shall treat the administrative record as an exhibit. The Clerk shall return the administrative record to the officer or agency certifying the same to the Court.

**(g) Removal of files.** No files may be removed from the Clerk's office without the express permission of the Clerk or the Clerk's designee.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LOCAL CRIMINAL RULES**  
**(Cite as LCrR)**

**LCrR 3.1 RIGHT TO AND ASSIGNMENT OF LAWYER**

**(d) Assignment of Lawyer.**

**(1)** A defendant requesting appointment of counsel shall be required to sign a Request for and Order Appointing Legal Counsel.

**(3)** A defendant requesting appointment of counsel may be required to fill out an indigency screening form.

**(f) Services Other Than a Lawyer.**

**(3) Reasonable Compensation.**

**(A)** Party having received authorization to retain an investigator, expert or other services must provide a signed copy of the order approving authorization, along with their motion for reimbursement and invoice. Any party requesting reimbursement shall further comply with any and all protocols established by Court Administrator regarding reimbursement.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCrR 3.2 RELEASE OF ACCUSED**

**(p) Bail setting and Bail review.**

**(1)** At a defendant's first appearance on a criminal charge, in those cases where the court determines that bail should be required, the Court shall proceed to set a reasonable bail, taking into account the factors set forth in CrR 3.2(c).

**(2)** At the time set for arraignment, the Court hearing the matter may review the bail previously set. Thereafter, bail may be reconsidered only by proper written motion and with timely notice to the other party.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCrR 3.3 TIME FOR TRIAL**

**(i) Resetting court dates.** The court shall advise and provide dates to the defendant for an omnibus hearing (if necessary), status conference, trial and any other dates as determined by the court. The defendant shall sign the notice setting court dates and be given a copy of the notice setting court dates.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCrR 3.4 PRESENCE OF THE DEFENDANT**

**(b) When Necessary.**

(1) In addition to those hearings listed in CrR 3.4(b), as now or hereafter amended, there is good cause to require the defendant to be present physically or remotely (at the court's discretion) and is necessary to advance the progress of the case at the following hearings:

- (A) The defendant's motion to waive jury trial;
- (B) The defendant's motion for continuance of trial date and waiver of speedy trial rights;
- (C) Any hearing where the court is required to conduct a colloquy with the defendant;
- (D) Evidentiary hearings conducted pursuant to CrR 3.5 or CrR 3.6;
- (E) Status Conference hearings, unless the defendant's counsel affirms, in writing or in open court (i) that the defendant has expressly chosen to appear through counsel, as allowed by CrR 3.4(a), and (ii) that counsel has affirmatively determined, through recent contact with the defendant, that the matter is ready to proceed to trial as scheduled or that a written motion for continuance approved by the defendant has been filed.

(2) When the court finds that the defendant's physical or remote appearance is required at any other hearing other than those listed in CrR 3.4(b) or LCrR 3.4(b)(1), the court will enter an appropriate order pursuant to CrR 3.4(d).

**(e) Remote Hearings for Entry of Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty Authorized.**

Upon agreement of all parties and approval of the trial court judge, entry of Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty may be conducted by Remote Hearing.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCrR 3.5 CONFESSIO PROCEDURE**

**(a) Requirement for and Time for Hearing.**

(1) Within seven days after the Omnibus hearing where a 3.5 hearing is requested by the State (or if the Prosecutor learns of the statements of the accused to be offered at trial more than seven days after the omnibus hearing, then within two (2) court days of learning of statements they intend to offer), the Prosecutor must serve on the defendant (or if represented, the defendant's attorney) and file with the Court a brief description of the defendant's statements(s) the Prosecutor intends to offer in evidence.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

**LCrR 3.6 SUPPRESSION HEARINGS – DUTY OF COURT**

**(a) Pleadings.**

(1) **Timing of briefs.** The defendant shall file and serve upon the Prosecuting Attorney a Motion to Suppress and Memorandum of Authorities in support of the motion at least ten (10) court days prior to the hearings on the motion, unless otherwise ordered by the court. A response to the Memorandum shall be filed and served at least five (5) court days before the hearing and a reply to the response shall be filed and served at least two (2) court days prior to the hearing, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Courtesy copies of all Memoranda shall be provided to the Judge hearing the matter at the time of filing.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LCrR 4.1 ARRAIGNMENT**

(g) **Arrest Order.** At arraignment in any criminal action, the court shall advise and provide dates to the defendant for an omnibus hearing, status conference and trial. The defendant shall sign

the notice setting court dates and be given a copy of the notice setting court dates.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

#### **LCrR 6.15 INSTRUCTIONS AND ARGUMENT**

**(b) Submission.** Counsel is requested by the Court to prepare and deliver to the Court and opposing counsel by 4:30 p.m. the court day preceding the date set for trial, the required number of copies of proposed instructions. Washington Pattern Jury Instructions are recommended for use whenever possible. Counsel is requested to prepare instructions as follows:

**(1)** One original with citations shall be assembled into a set, numbered, and shall be filed with the Clerk;

**(2)** One copy of the originals with citations that is filed with the court shall be served on opposing counsel;

**(3)** One copy of the originals with citations that is filed with the court shall be delivered to the Judge; and

**(4)** One copy without citations and numbers shall be delivered to the Judge.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

### **LOCAL MANDATORY ARBITRATION RULES**

**(Cite as LMAR)**

**LMAR 1.1 PURPOSE.** The mandatory arbitration of civil actions under RCW 7.06 is to provide a simplified and economical procedure for obtaining the prompt and equitable resolution of disputes involving of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or less. The Mandatory Arbitration Rules as supplemented by these local rules are not designed to address every question which may arise during the arbitration process, and the rules give considerable discretion to the arbitrator. The arbitrator should not hesitate to exercise that discretion.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 1.2 MATTERS SUBJECT TO ARBITRATION.** By implementation of these rules the Superior Courts of Klickitat/Skamania County authorizes mandatory arbitration under RCW 7.060.010, and approves such arbitrations in which no party asserts a claim in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), exclusive of interest and costs under RCW 7.06.020.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

#### **LMAR 2.1 TRANSFER TO ARBITRATION**

**(a) Statement of Arbitrability.** In every civil case after a response has been filed and at any time thereafter that a case meets Mandatory Arbitration guidelines, a party shall, upon the form approved by the Court, complete a Note for Trial Setting/Certificate of Readiness/Statement of Arbitrability (Exemplar #1), and request that the case be transferred to arbitration. The party requesting arbitration shall file and serve a copy of the Statement of Arbitrability on the opposing party and the

court administrator. The Court may transfer a case to arbitration on its own motion if it determines a case meets the requirements of the Mandatory Arbitration Rules.

**(b) Response to Statement of Arbitrability.** Any party contesting a transfer to arbitration shall file and serve, on opposing party and court administrator, a response stating their objections within 10 days of receipt of request to transfer to arbitration. Unless a response is timely filed and served, the case shall be deemed subject to mandatory arbitration.

**(c) Failure to File Timely Response – Amendments.** A party failing to timely serve and file a response within time prescribed may later do so only upon leave of Court.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

### **LMAR 2.3 ASSIGNMENT TO ARBITRATOR**

**(a) Generally; Stipulations.** When a case is set for arbitration, a list of five (5) proposed arbitrators will be furnished to the parties. A master list of arbitrators will be made available on request. The parties are encouraged to stipulate to an arbitrator. In the absence of a stipulation, the arbitrator will be chosen from among the five proposed arbitrators in the manner defined by this rule.

**(b) Response by Parties.** Each party may, within 14 days after a list of proposed arbitrators is furnished to the parties, nominate up to three (3) arbitrators and strike up to two (2) arbitrators from the list. If both parties respond, an arbitrator nominated by both parties will be appointed. If no arbitrator has been nominated by both parties, the Court Administrator will randomly appoint an arbitrator from among those not stricken by either party.

**(c) Response by Only One Party.** If only one party responds within 14 days, the Court Administrator will appoint an arbitrator nominated by that party.

**(d) No response.** If neither party responds within 14 days, the Court Administrator will randomly appoint one of the five proposed arbitrators.

**(e) Additional Arbitrators for Additional Parties.** If there are more than two adverse parties, all represented by different counsel, two (2) additional proposed arbitrators shall be added to the list for each additional party so represented with the above principles of selection to be applied. The number of adverse parties shall be determined by the Court Administrator, subject to review by the Presiding Judge.

**(f) Insufficient number of Arbitrators.** If less than the number of arbitrators specified above are on the county list, the number may be reduced to the number of available arbitrators on the county list.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

### **LMAR 3.1 QUALIFICATIONS**

**(a) Arbitration Panel.** There shall be a panel of arbitrators in such numbers as the Superior Court judges may from time to time determine. A person desiring to serve as an arbitrator shall complete an information sheet on the form prescribed by the court. A list showing the names of arbitrators

available to hear cases and the information sheets will be available for public inspection in the Court Administrator's office. The oath of office on the form prescribed by the court must be completed and filed prior to an applicant being placed on the panel.

**(b) Refusal; Disqualification.** The appointment of an arbitrator is subject to the right of that person to refuse to serve. An arbitrator must notify the Court Administrator immediately if refusing to serve or if any cause exists for the arbitrator's disqualification from the case upon any of the grounds of interest, relationship, bias or prejudice set forth in CJC Canon 3(c) governing the disqualification of judges. If disqualified, the arbitrator must immediately return all materials in a case to the Court Administrator.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

### **LMAR 3.2 AUTHORITY OF ARBITRATORS**

**(a) An arbitrator shall have the authority to:**

**(1)** Determine the time, place and procedure to present a motion for before the arbitrator.

**(2)** Require a party or attorney advising such party or both to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure of such party or attorney or both to obey an order of the arbitrator unless the arbitrator finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust. The arbitrator shall make a special award for such expenses and shall file such award with the Clerk of the Superior Court, with proof of service of a party on each party. The aggrieved party shall have 10 days thereafter to appeal the award of such expense in accordance with the procedures described in RCW 2.24.050. If within 10 days after the award is filed no party appeals, a judgment shall be entered in a manner described generally under MAR 6.3.

**(3)** Award attorney's fees as authorized by these rules, by contract or by law.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 5.1 LOCATION AND TIMING OF HEARING.** The arbitrator shall set the time, date and place of the hearing.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 5.2 PRE-HEARING STATEMENT OF PROOF – COURT DOCUMENTS.** In addition to the requirements of MAR 5.2, each party shall also furnish the arbitrator with copies of pleadings and other documents contained in the court file which that party deems relevant. The court file shall remain with the County Clerk.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

### **LMAR 5.3 CONDUCT OF HEARINGS.**

**(a) Witnesses.** The arbitrator shall place a witness under oath or affirmation before the witness presents testimony.

**(b) Recording.** The hearing may be recorded electronically or otherwise by any party at his or her expense.

**(c) Rules of Evidence, Generally.** The Rules of Evidence, to the extent determined by the arbitrator to be applicable, should be liberally construed to promote justice. The parties should stipulate to the admission of evidence when there is no genuine issue as to its relevance or authenticity.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 6.1 FORM AND CONTENT OF AWARD.**

**(a) Form.** The award shall be prepared on an Arbitration Award form approved by the Court and filed with the County Clerk, along with proof of service on the parties.

**(b) Return of Exhibits.** When an award is filed, the arbitrator shall return all exhibits to the parties who offered them during the hearing.

**LMAR 6.3 JUDGMENT ON AWARD.** A judgment on award shall be presented on the civil docket, by any party, on notice in accordance with MAR 6.3.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

**LMAR 7.1 REQUEST FOR TRIAL DE NOVO AND SEALING OF AWARD.** A request for trial de novo and shall be filed with the County Clerk. The clerk shall seal any award if a trial de novo is requested.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 8.1 STIPULATION – EFFECT ON RELIEF GRANTED.** If a case, not otherwise subject to mandatory arbitration, is transferred to arbitration by stipulation, the arbitrator may grant any relief which could have been granted if the case were determined by a judge. Stipulated arbitrations are not governed by these rules unless expressly agreed to by the parties. Compensation of arbitrators performing stipulated arbitrations is the responsibility of the parties.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 8.4 TITLE AND CITATION.** These rules are known and cited as the Klickitat/Skamania County Superior Court Mandatory Arbitration Rules. LMAR is the official abbreviation.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020.]

**LMAR 8.6 COMPENSATION OF ARBITRATOR.**

**(a) Generally.** Arbitrators shall be compensated in the same amount and manner as judges pro tempore of Superior Court. The maximum compensation is capped at ten (10) hours times the applicable hourly rate as provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, unless otherwise approved by the Superior Court judge. Hearing time and reasonable preparation time are compensable.

**(b) Form.** When an award is filed, the arbitrator shall submit a request for payment. The Superior Court will pay up to \$500. The parties will split the remainder of the amount and pay directly to the Arbitrator. The Court Administrator will supply the payment information and breakdown to the parties.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 2023.]

**LMAR 8.7 ADMINISTRATION.** The Court Administrator, under the supervision of the Superior Court judge, shall supervise arbitration under these rules and perform any additional duties which may be delegated by the Superior Court judge.

**LMAR 8.8 FORMS.** Forms approved by the Court shall be available on the Superior Court website.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020; Amended effective September 1, 2023]

## **LOCAL GUARDIAN AD LITEM RULES (Cite as LGALR)**

### **LGALR 7 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

These rules apply to guardians ad litem appointed on any case heard by the Court under Titles 11, 13 and 26 of the Revised Code of Washington.

#### **(d) GAL Grievance procedures.**

**(1) Written Complaints.** All complaints must be in writing and must be submitted to the Superior Court Administrator. All complaints must bear the signature, name and address of the person filing the complaint. Complaints shall remain confidential until resolved.

**(2) Initial Sufficiency Determination.** The Court Administrator will make an initial determination as to whether the complaint is sufficiently serious enough to address further. Determination of sufficiency may include issues that are not meritorious as defined in section LGALR (d)(4)(A), but are issues that could still be deemed detrimental to the GAL program. Meritorious claims are sufficiently serious to invoke the grievance procedures outlined in this section.

**(A)** If the Court Administrator determines that the complaint is not sufficiently serious to address further, the Court Administrator shall notify the complainant that the complaint will be closed and advise them that they may request that the Presiding Judge review the complaint by submitting a written request/appeal within 10 days of receipt of letter closing complaint.

**(i)** If the Presiding Judge determines that the complaint should be addressed, he or she shall notify the Court Administrator to process the complaint per the grievance procedures outlined below.

**(B)** If the Court Administrator determines that a complaint is sufficiently serious to move forward, the Court Administrator will comply with the grievance procedures outlined below.

### **(3) Complaints involving Title 13 GALs.**

**(A)** If the Court Administrator determines that a sufficiently serious enough complaint involves an issue that can be addressed at the program level, the Court Administrator will notify the GAL coordinator, forward a copy of the complaint to the GAL coordinator within two (2) business days of receipt of complaint and request that they address the complaint at the program level. If the GAL coordinator is unable to address at the program level, the GAL coordinator shall notify the Court Administrator within five (5) days of receiving the complaint from the Court Administrator.

**(i)** Time frames may be extended upon good cause shown.

**(4) Merit Determination.** A determination shall be made to determine whether complaint has merit to proceed further.

**(A)** In considering whether the complaint has merit involving a GAL appointed under Title 13, the Court Administrator shall consult with the Juvenile Court Administrator. In considering whether the complaint has merit involving a GAL appointed under Title 11 or 26, the Court Administrator shall consult with the Presiding Judge or Court Commissioner. In determining whether complaint has merit they shall consider whether the complaint alleges the Guardian ad Litem has: (i) Violated a code of conduct; (ii) Misrepresented his or her qualifications to serve as a Guardian ad Litem; (iii) Breached the confidentiality of the parties; (iv) Falsified information in a report to the court or in testimony before the court; (v) Failed, when required, to report abuse of a child; (vi) Communicated with a judicial officer ex-parte concerning a case for which he or she is serving as a guardian ad litem; (vii) Violated state or local laws or court rules; or (viii) Taken or failed to take any other action which would reasonably place the suitability of the person to serve as a Guardian ad Litem in question.

### **(5) Written Response.**

**(A)** If a complaint has merit, the Court administrator and/or his or her designee, shall seek a written response from the GAL that is the subject of the complaint requesting the person to respond and address the specific issues raised in the complaint.

**(B)** If it is determined that the complaint does not have merit, no written response will be requested of the GAL and the Court Administrator will notify the complainant and close the file.

**(6) Findings.** Upon the receipt of a written response to a complaint from the Guardian ad Litem, a committee of the Presiding judge, Court Administrator and/or the Juvenile Court Administrator shall make a finding as to each of the specific issues in the complaint. Such findings shall state that either there is no merit to the issue based upon the Guardian ad Litem's response or that there is merit to the issue. The complainant and the Guardian ad Litem shall be notified in writing of the Committee's decision following receipt of the Guardian ad Litem's response.

**(7) Sanctions.** The Committee shall have the authority to issue a written admonishment, a written reprimand, refer the Guardian ad Litem to additional training, or remove the Guardian ad Litem from the registry. In considering a response, the Committee shall take into consideration any prior complaints that resulted in an admonishment, reprimand, referral to training, or suspension or removal from a registry. If a Guardian ad Litem is listed on more than one registry, the suspension or removal may apply to each registry on which the Guardian ad Litem is listed, at the discretion of the Committee.

### **(e) Confidentiality.**

**(1)** A complaint shall be deemed confidential for all purposes unless there has been a determination that it has merit and a response has been requested from the GAL.

**(2)** Any record of complaints filed which are not deemed to have merit and no response has been requested from the GAL shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except by court order.

**(f) Responses to complaint.** GAL who is required to respond to a complaint shall do so in writing within ten (10) days of receiving request for response. Failure to respond within ten (10) days, absent good cause shown, will result in immediate suspension from the case assignment.

**(g) Complaint resolution time standards.** A complaint involving a pending case shall be resolved within 25 days of receipt of complaint. A complaint involving a case that is concluded shall be resolved within 60 days of receipt of complaint.

**(i) Removal from the registry.** A Guardian ad Litem who is removed from the registry, and who still has active or incomplete cases shall immediately report this circumstance to the Superior Court Administrator who will reassign such cases.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2020]

**LOCAL JUVENILE COURT RULES  
(Cite as LJuCR)  
(SKAMANIA COUNTY ONLY)**

**LJuCR 7.8 TIME FOR ADJUDICATORY HEARING**

**(d) Setting of Hearing Date**

**(5) Status Conference Hearing.** Upon setting of an adjudicatory hearing date, the court shall set a status conference hearing date. Status conference hearing shall not be held on the record. Parties shall be responsible for filing a Status Conference Report form (Exemplar #4) on or before the status conference hearing date.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2023]

**EXEMPLARS**

**List of Exemplars:**

- Exemplar #1 - Note for Trial Setting/Certificate of Readiness/Statement of Arbitrability
- Exemplar #2 - Objection to Trial Setting / Statement of Arbitrability
- Exemplar #3 - Settlement Conference Request Form
- Exemplar #4 - Status Conference Report Form
- Exemplar #5 - Request for Remote Appearance Form
- Exemplar #6 - Informal Family Law Trial (IFLT)