



County Clerks

Dependency Notifications



Nearly 30 years ago, the state removed the responsibility for dependency and termination of parent-child relationship from counties. This allowed for greater coordination of services and standardization across the State of Washington.

In doing so, the state took over all but one aspect of dependency actions - publication of notification. RCW 13.34.080 currently requires counties to publish notice of a dependency action in a legal newspaper printed in the county, while having no role in the process otherwise.


This created a system in which counties carry the cost of publication, and are divorced of the actions in which they are posting notice for.

WACO and County Clerks are seeking legislation to allow for the state to pay for publications related to state dependency actions to unify the entirety of the Juvenile Court Act under the state's authority.


This proposal will allow for better coordination of notices from the state, and alleviate counties of the costs associated with notifications.

Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director
Jennifer@countyofficials.org | 360-489-3042

Timothy Grisham, Deputy Director
Tim@countyofficials.org | 360-489-3044

 www.countyofficials.org

 Washington Association
of County Officials

 206 10th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

 @WACOfficials