

HOUSE BILL 3104

State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Pedersen, Hankins, Moeller, Walsh, Linville, Takko, Upthegrove, Kessler, Jarrett, Ericks, Wallace, Grant, Eickmeyer, Quall, Clibborn, Dunshee, Lantz, Sullivan, Simpson, Blake, Hunter, Roberts, Rolfes, Williams, Sells, Schual-Berke, Springer, Eddy, Hunt, Hudgins, Santos, Cody, Seaquist, Fromhold, Nelson, McIntire, Chase, Hasegawa, Appleton, Darneille, Haigh, Sommers, Dickerson, Kirby, Wood, Flannigan, Conway, Goodman, Kenney, Kagi, Ormsby, Loomis, McCoy, Barlow, O'Brien, Pettigrew, Morris, Lias, and VanDeWege

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to expanding rights and responsibilities of all  
2 couples recognized as domestic partners under chapter 26.60 RCW;  
3 amending RCW 42.17.241, 42.52.040, 43.03.305, 43.185A.010, 43.20B.080,  
4 70.123.020, 70.129.140, 74.42.070, 4.22.020, 5.60.060, 5.66.010,  
5 7.69.020, 7.69B.010, 26.50.010, 4.08.030, 4.08.040, 4.20.046,  
6 28B.15.621, 73.08.005, 72.36.030, 72.36.040, 72.36.050, 72.36.070,  
7 72.36.110, 73.04.120, 73.36.140, 73.04.010, 73.04.115, 26.16.010,  
8 26.16.020, 26.16.030, 26.16.050, 26.16.060, 26.16.070, 26.16.080,  
9 26.16.090, 26.16.095, 26.16.100, 26.16.120, 26.16.140, 26.16.150,  
10 26.16.180, 26.16.190, 26.16.200, 26.16.205, 26.16.210, 26.16.220,  
11 26.16.230, 26.16.240, 26.16.250, 11.84.030, 64.28.010, 64.28.020,  
12 64.28.030, 64.28.040, 9.46.231, 9A.83.030, 69.50.505, 64.06.010,  
13 6.13.020, 6.13.060, 6.13.080, 6.13.180, 6.13.210, 6.13.220, 6.13.230,  
14 26.16.125, 60.04.211, 82.45.010, 84.38.030, 84.38.070, 84.38.130,  
15 84.38.150, 84.36.381, 84.36.041, 84.36.120, 84.36.383, 84.37.080,  
16 7.36.020, 11.88.010, 11.88.040, 11.88.090, 11.88.125, 11.76.080,  
17 11.92.140, 11.94.090, 11.94.100, 11.94.140, 11.02.005, 11.02.070,  
18 11.02.100, 11.02.120, 11.04.095, 11.08.300, 11.10.010, 11.11.010,  
19 11.12.051, 11.12.095, 11.12.180, 11.28.030, 11.28.131, 11.28.185,  
20 11.54.010, 11.54.020, 11.54.030, 11.54.040, 11.54.050, 11.54.070,  
21 11.62.005, 11.62.010, 11.62.030, 11.68.011, 11.80.130, 11.96A.030,

1 11.96A.120, 11.100.025, 11.04.290, 11.10.030, 11.80.010, 11.80.050,  
2 11.114.010, 26.60.050, 26.09.004, 26.09.010, 26.09.020, 26.09.030,  
3 26.09.040, 26.09.050, 26.09.060, 26.09.070, 26.09.080, 26.09.090,  
4 26.09.100, 26.09.110, 26.09.120, 26.09.170, 26.09.210, 26.09.255,  
5 26.09.280, 26.09.290, 26.09.310, 26.10.050, 26.10.180, 26.12.190,  
6 26.18.010, 26.18.020, 26.18.030, 26.18.040, 26.18.050, 26.18.070,  
7 26.18.090, 26.18.100, 26.18.110, 26.18.120, 26.18.140, 26.18.150,  
8 26.19.071, 26.19.075, 26.20.035, 26.20.071, 26.20.080, 26.21A.010,  
9 26.21A.150, 26.21A.275, 26.09.015, 26.09.194, 26.12.172, and 26.12.260;  
10 reenacting and amending RCW 42.17.020, 11.07.010, 26.09.150, and  
11 26.09.015; adding new sections to chapter 26.60 RCW; creating new  
12 sections; providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

14 **PART I - NOTICE**

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** (1) Sixty days before the effective date  
16 of this act, and again thirty days before the effective date of this  
17 act, the secretary of state shall send a letter to the mailing address  
18 on file of each domestic partner registered under chapter 26.60 RCW  
19 notifying the person that Washington's law on the rights and  
20 responsibilities of state registered domestic partners will change.

21 (2) The notice shall provide a brief summary of new laws, including  
22 changes to the laws governing community property, transfer of property,  
23 taxes, mutual responsibilities for certain debts to third parties, and  
24 other provisions. The notice shall also explain that the way domestic  
25 partnerships are terminated has changed and that, unless there are  
26 certain limited circumstances, it will be necessary to participate in  
27 a dissolution proceeding in court to end a domestic partnership.

28 (3) The notice shall inform the person that those domestic partners  
29 who do not wish to be subject to the new rights and responsibilities  
30 must terminate their domestic partnership before the effective date of  
31 the act.

32 **PART II - PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

1           **Sec. 201.** RCW 42.17.020 and 2007 c 358 s 1 and 2007 C 180 S 1 are  
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3           The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
4 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5           (1) "Actual malice" means to act with knowledge of falsity or with  
6 reckless disregard as to truth or falsity.

7           (2) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.  
8 "State agency" includes every state office, department, division,  
9 bureau, board, commission, or other state agency. "Local agency"  
10 includes every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-  
11 municipal corporation, or special purpose district, or any office,  
12 department, division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or  
13 other local public agency.

14           (3) "Authorized committee" means the political committee authorized  
15 by a candidate, or by the public official against whom recall charges  
16 have been filed, to accept contributions or make expenditures on behalf  
17 of the candidate or public official.

18           (4) "Ballot proposition" means any "measure" as defined by RCW  
19 29A.04.091, or any initiative, recall, or referendum proposition  
20 proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state or any municipal  
21 corporation, political subdivision, or other voting constituency from  
22 and after the time when the proposition has been initially filed with  
23 the appropriate election officer of that constituency prior to its  
24 circulation for signatures.

25           (5) "Benefit" means a commercial, proprietary, financial, economic,  
26 or monetary advantage, or the avoidance of a commercial, proprietary,  
27 financial, economic, or monetary disadvantage.

28           (6) "Bona fide political party" means:

29           (a) An organization that has filed a valid certificate of  
30 nomination with the secretary of state under chapter 29A.20 RCW;

31           (b) The governing body of the state organization of a major  
32 political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, that is the body  
33 authorized by the charter or bylaws of the party to exercise authority  
34 on behalf of the state party; or

35           (c) The county central committee or legislative district committee  
36 of a major political party. There may be only one legislative district  
37 committee for each party in each legislative district.

1 (7) "Depository" means a bank designated by a candidate or  
2 political committee pursuant to RCW 42.17.050.

3 (8) "Treasurer" and "deputy treasurer" mean the individuals  
4 appointed by a candidate or political committee, pursuant to RCW  
5 42.17.050, to perform the duties specified in that section.

6 (9) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for  
7 election or election to public office. An individual seeks nomination  
8 or election when he or she first:

9 (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves space  
10 or facilities with intent to promote his or her candidacy for office;

11 (b) Announces publicly or files for office;

12 (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to  
13 promote his or her candidacy; or

14 (d) Gives his or her consent to another person to take on behalf of  
15 the individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

16 (10) "Caucus political committee" means a political committee  
17 organized and maintained by the members of a major political party in  
18 the state senate or state house of representatives.

19 (11) "Commercial advertiser" means any person who sells the service  
20 of communicating messages or producing printed material for broadcast  
21 or distribution to the general public or segments of the general public  
22 whether through the use of newspapers, magazines, television and radio  
23 stations, billboard companies, direct mail advertising companies,  
24 printing companies, or otherwise.

25 (12) "Commission" means the agency established under RCW 42.17.350.

26 (13) "Compensation" unless the context requires a narrower meaning,  
27 includes payment in any form for real or personal property or services  
28 of any kind: PROVIDED, That for the purpose of compliance with RCW  
29 42.17.241, the term "compensation" shall not include per diem  
30 allowances or other payments made by a governmental entity to reimburse  
31 a public official for expenses incurred while the official is engaged  
32 in the official business of the governmental entity.

33 (14) "Continuing political committee" means a political committee  
34 that is an organization of continuing existence not established in  
35 anticipation of any particular election campaign.

36 (15)(a) "Contribution" includes:

37 (i) A loan, gift, deposit, subscription, forgiveness of

1 indebtedness, donation, advance, pledge, payment, transfer of funds  
2 between political committees, or anything of value, including personal  
3 and professional services for less than full consideration;

4 (ii) An expenditure made by a person in cooperation, consultation,  
5 or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a  
6 political committee, the person or persons named on the candidate's or  
7 committee's registration form who direct expenditures on behalf of the  
8 candidate or committee, or their agents;

9 (iii) The financing by a person of the dissemination, distribution,  
10 or republication, in whole or in part, of broadcast, written, graphic,  
11 or other form of political advertising or electioneering communication  
12 prepared by a candidate, a political committee, or its authorized  
13 agent;

14 (iv) Sums paid for tickets to fund-raising events such as dinners  
15 and parties, except for the actual cost of the consumables furnished at  
16 the event.

17 (b) "Contribution" does not include:

18 (i) Standard interest on money deposited in a political committee's  
19 account;

20 (ii) Ordinary home hospitality;

21 (iii) A contribution received by a candidate or political committee  
22 that is returned to the contributor within five business days of the  
23 date on which it is received by the candidate or political committee;

24 (iv) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly  
25 scheduled news medium that is of primary interest to the general  
26 public, that is in a news medium controlled by a person whose business  
27 is that news medium, and that is not controlled by a candidate or a  
28 political committee;

29 (v) An internal political communication primarily limited to the  
30 members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
31 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or  
32 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members  
33 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

34 (vi) The rendering of personal services of the sort commonly  
35 performed by volunteer campaign workers, or incidental expenses  
36 personally incurred by volunteer campaign workers not in excess of  
37 fifty dollars personally paid for by the worker. "Volunteer services,"

1 for the purposes of this section, means services or labor for which the  
2 individual is not compensated by any person;

3 (vii) Messages in the form of reader boards, banners, or yard or  
4 window signs displayed on a person's own property or property occupied  
5 by a person. However, a facility used for such political advertising  
6 for which a rental charge is normally made must be reported as an in-  
7 kind contribution and counts towards any applicable contribution limit  
8 of the person providing the facility;

9 (viii) Legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of:

10 (A) A political party or caucus political committee if the person  
11 paying for the services is the regular employer of the person rendering  
12 such services; or

13 (B) A candidate or an authorized committee if the person paying for  
14 the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering the  
15 services and if the services are solely for the purpose of ensuring  
16 compliance with state election or public disclosure laws; or

17 (ix) The performance of ministerial functions by a person on behalf  
18 of two or more candidates or political committees either as volunteer  
19 services defined in (b)(vi) of this subsection or for payment by the  
20 candidate or political committee for whom the services are performed as  
21 long as:

22 (A) The person performs solely ministerial functions;

23 (B) A person who is paid by two or more candidates or political  
24 committees is identified by the candidates and political committees on  
25 whose behalf services are performed as part of their respective  
26 statements of organization under RCW 42.17.040; and

27 (C) The person does not disclose, except as required by law, any  
28 information regarding a candidate's or committee's plans, projects,  
29 activities, or needs, or regarding a candidate's or committee's  
30 contributions or expenditures that is not already publicly available  
31 from campaign reports filed with the commission, or otherwise engage in  
32 activity that constitutes a contribution under (a)(ii) of this  
33 subsection.

34 A person who performs ministerial functions under this subsection  
35 (15)(b)(ix) is not considered an agent of the candidate or committee as  
36 long as he or she has no authority to authorize expenditures or make  
37 decisions on behalf of the candidate or committee.

1 (c) Contributions other than money or its equivalent are deemed to  
2 have a monetary value equivalent to the fair market value of the  
3 contribution. Services or property or rights furnished at less than  
4 their fair market value for the purpose of assisting any candidate or  
5 political committee are deemed a contribution. Such a contribution  
6 must be reported as an in-kind contribution at its fair market value  
7 and counts towards any applicable contribution limit of the provider.

8 (16) "Elected official" means any person elected at a general or  
9 special election to any public office, and any person appointed to fill  
10 a vacancy in any such office.

11 (17) "Election" includes any primary, general, or special election  
12 for public office and any election in which a ballot proposition is  
13 submitted to the voters: PROVIDED, That an election in which the  
14 qualifications for voting include other than those requirements set  
15 forth in Article VI, section 1 (Amendment 63) of the Constitution of  
16 the state of Washington shall not be considered an election for  
17 purposes of this chapter.

18 (18) "Election campaign" means any campaign in support of or in  
19 opposition to a candidate for election to public office and any  
20 campaign in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot proposition.

21 (19) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day  
22 of January after the date of the last previous general election for the  
23 office that the candidate seeks and ending on December 31st after the  
24 next election for the office. In the case of a special election to  
25 fill a vacancy in an office, "election cycle" means the period  
26 beginning on the day the vacancy occurs and ending on December 31st  
27 after the special election.

28 (20) "Electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or  
29 satellite television or radio transmission, United States postal  
30 service mailing, billboard, newspaper, or periodical that:

31 (a) Clearly identifies a candidate for a state, local, or judicial  
32 office either by specifically naming the candidate, or identifying the  
33 candidate without using the candidate's name;

34 (b) Is broadcast, transmitted, mailed, erected, distributed, or  
35 otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that  
36 office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election;  
37 and

1 (c) Either alone, or in combination with one or more communications  
2 identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days  
3 before an election, has a fair market value of five thousand dollars or  
4 more.

5 (21) "Electioneering communication" does not include:

6 (a) Usual and customary advertising of a business owned by a  
7 candidate, even if the candidate is mentioned in the advertising when  
8 the candidate has been regularly mentioned in that advertising  
9 appearing at least twelve months preceding his or her becoming a  
10 candidate;

11 (b) Advertising for candidate debates or forums when the  
12 advertising is paid for by or on behalf of the debate or forum sponsor,  
13 so long as two or more candidates for the same position have been  
14 invited to participate in the debate or forum;

15 (c) A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly  
16 scheduled news medium that is:

17 (i) Of primary interest to the general public;

18 (ii) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is that  
19 news medium; and

20 (iii) Not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political  
21 committee;

22 (d) Slate cards and sample ballots;

23 (e) Advertising for books, films, dissertations, or similar works  
24 (i) written by a candidate when the candidate entered into a contract  
25 for such publications or media at least twelve months before becoming  
26 a candidate, or (ii) written about a candidate;

27 (f) Public service announcements;

28 (g) A mailed internal political communication primarily limited to  
29 the members of or contributors to a political party organization or  
30 political committee, or to the officers, management staff, or  
31 stockholders of a corporation or similar enterprise, or to the members  
32 of a labor organization or other membership organization;

33 (h) An expenditure by or contribution to the authorized committee  
34 of a candidate for state, local, or judicial office; or

35 (i) Any other communication exempted by the commission through rule  
36 consistent with the intent of this chapter.

37 (22) "Expenditure" includes a payment, contribution, subscription,  
38 distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of



1 value, and includes a contract, promise, or agreement, whether or not  
2 legally enforceable, to make an expenditure. The term "expenditure"  
3 also includes a promise to pay, a payment, or a transfer of anything of  
4 value in exchange for goods, services, property, facilities, or  
5 anything of value for the purpose of assisting, benefiting, or honoring  
6 any public official or candidate, or assisting in furthering or  
7 opposing any election campaign. For the purposes of this chapter,  
8 agreements to make expenditures, contracts, and promises to pay may be  
9 reported as estimated obligations until actual payment is made. The  
10 term "expenditure" shall not include the partial or complete repayment  
11 by a candidate or political committee of the principal of a loan, the  
12 receipt of which loan has been properly reported.

13 (23) "Final report" means the report described as a final report in  
14 RCW 42.17.080(2).

15 (24) "General election" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 means the  
16 election that results in the election of a person to a state office.  
17 It does not include a primary.

18 (25) "Gift," is as defined in RCW 42.52.010.

19 (26) "Immediate family" includes the spouse or domestic partner,  
20 dependent children, and other dependent relatives, if living in the  
21 household. For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790,  
22 "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or domestic partner,  
23 and child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent,  
24 brother, half brother, sister, or half sister of the individual and the  
25 spouse or the domestic partner of any such person and a child,  
26 stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, half  
27 brother, sister, or half sister of the individual's spouse or domestic  
28 partner and the spouse or the domestic partner of any such person.

29 (27) "Incumbent" means a person who is in present possession of an  
30 elected office.

31 (28) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that has each  
32 of the following elements:

33 (a) It is made in support of or in opposition to a candidate for  
34 office by a person who is not (i) a candidate for that office, (ii) an  
35 authorized committee of that candidate for that office, (iii) a person  
36 who has received the candidate's encouragement or approval to make the  
37 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
38 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any

1 other candidate or candidates for that office, or (iv) a person with  
2 whom the candidate has collaborated for the purpose of making the  
3 expenditure, if the expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
4 advertising supporting that candidate or promoting the defeat of any  
5 other candidate or candidates for that office;

6 (b) The expenditure pays in whole or in part for political  
7 advertising that either specifically names the candidate supported or  
8 opposed, or clearly and beyond any doubt identifies the candidate  
9 without using the candidate's name; and

10 (c) The expenditure, alone or in conjunction with another  
11 expenditure or other expenditures of the same person in support of or  
12 opposition to that candidate, has a value of five hundred dollars or  
13 more. A series of expenditures, each of which is under five hundred  
14 dollars, constitutes one independent expenditure if their cumulative  
15 value is five hundred dollars or more.

16 (29)(a) "Intermediary" means an individual who transmits a  
17 contribution to a candidate or committee from another person unless the  
18 contribution is from the individual's employer, immediate family as  
19 defined for purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, or an  
20 association to which the individual belongs.

21 (b) A treasurer or a candidate is not an intermediary for purposes  
22 of the committee that the treasurer or candidate serves.

23 (c) A professional fund-raiser is not an intermediary if the fund-  
24 raiser is compensated for fund-raising services at the usual and  
25 customary rate.

26 (d) A volunteer hosting a fund-raising event at the individual's  
27 home is not an intermediary for purposes of that event.

28 (30) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, motions, amendments,  
29 nominations, and other matters pending or proposed in either house of  
30 the state legislature, and includes any other matter that may be the  
31 subject of action by either house or any committee of the legislature  
32 and all bills and resolutions that, having passed both houses, are  
33 pending approval by the governor.

34 (31) "Lobby" and "lobbying" each mean attempting to influence the  
35 passage or defeat of any legislation by the legislature of the state of  
36 Washington, or the adoption or rejection of any rule, standard, rate,  
37 or other legislative enactment of any state agency under the state

1 Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Neither "lobby" nor  
2 "lobbying" includes an association's or other organization's act of  
3 communicating with the members of that association or organization.

4 (32) "Lobbyist" includes any person who lobbies either in his or  
5 her own or another's behalf.

6 (33) "Lobbyist's employer" means the person or persons by whom a  
7 lobbyist is employed and all persons by whom he or she is compensated  
8 for acting as a lobbyist.

9 (34) "Ministerial functions" means an act or duty carried out as  
10 part of the duties of an administrative office without exercise of  
11 personal judgment or discretion.

12 (35) "Participate" means that, with respect to a particular  
13 election, an entity:

14 (a) Makes either a monetary or in-kind contribution to a candidate;

15 (b) Makes an independent expenditure or electioneering  
16 communication in support of or opposition to a candidate;

17 (c) Endorses a candidate prior to contributions being made by a  
18 subsidiary corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or  
19 that candidate's opponent;

20 (d) Makes a recommendation regarding whether a candidate should be  
21 supported or opposed prior to a contribution being made by a subsidiary  
22 corporation or local unit with respect to that candidate or that  
23 candidate's opponent; or

24 (e) Directly or indirectly collaborates or consults with a  
25 subsidiary corporation or local unit on matters relating to the support  
26 of or opposition to a candidate, including, but not limited to, the  
27 amount of a contribution, when a contribution should be given, and what  
28 assistance, services or independent expenditures, or electioneering  
29 communications, if any, will be made or should be made in support of or  
30 opposition to a candidate.

31 (36) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, joint venture,  
32 public or private corporation, association, federal, state, or local  
33 governmental entity or agency however constituted, candidate,  
34 committee, political committee, political party, executive committee  
35 thereof, or any other organization or group of persons, however  
36 organized.

37 (37) "Person in interest" means the person who is the subject of a

1 record or any representative designated by that person, except that if  
2 that person is under a legal disability, the term "person in interest"  
3 means and includes the parent or duly appointed legal representative.

4 (38) "Political advertising" includes any advertising displays,  
5 newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids,  
6 flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other means of  
7 mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or  
8 indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition  
9 in any election campaign.

10 (39) "Political committee" means any person (except a candidate or  
11 an individual dealing with his or her own funds or property) having the  
12 expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures in  
13 support of, or opposition to, any candidate or any ballot proposition.

14 (40) "Primary" for the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 means the  
15 procedure for nominating a candidate to state office under chapter  
16 29A.52 RCW or any other primary for an election that uses, in large  
17 measure, the procedures established in chapter 29A.52 RCW.

18 (41) "Public office" means any federal, state, judicial, county,  
19 city, town, school district, port district, special district, or other  
20 state political subdivision elective office.

21 (42) "Public record" includes any writing containing information  
22 relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any  
23 governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained  
24 by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or  
25 characteristics. For the office of the secretary of the senate and the  
26 office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives, public  
27 records means legislative records as defined in RCW 40.14.100 and also  
28 means the following: All budget and financial records; personnel  
29 leave, travel, and payroll records; records of legislative sessions;  
30 reports submitted to the legislature; and any other record designated  
31 a public record by any official action of the senate or the house of  
32 representatives.

33 (43) "Recall campaign" means the period of time beginning on the  
34 date of the filing of recall charges under RCW 29A.56.120 and ending  
35 thirty days after the recall election.

36 (44) "Sponsor of an electioneering communications, independent  
37 expenditures, or political advertising" means the person paying for the  
38 electioneering communication, independent expenditure, or political

1 advertising. If a person acts as an agent for another or is reimbursed  
2 by another for the payment, the original source of the payment is the  
3 sponsor.

4 (45) "State legislative office" means the office of a member of the  
5 state house of representatives or the office of a member of the state  
6 senate.

7 (46) "State office" means state legislative office or the office of  
8 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general,  
9 commissioner of public lands, insurance commissioner, superintendent of  
10 public instruction, state auditor, or state treasurer.

11 (47) "State official" means a person who holds a state office.

12 (48) "Surplus funds" mean, in the case of a political committee or  
13 candidate, the balance of contributions that remain in the possession  
14 or control of that committee or candidate subsequent to the election  
15 for which the contributions were received, and that are in excess of  
16 the amount necessary to pay remaining debts incurred by the committee  
17 or candidate prior to that election. In the case of a continuing  
18 political committee, "surplus funds" mean those contributions remaining  
19 in the possession or control of the committee that are in excess of the  
20 amount necessary to pay all remaining debts when it makes its final  
21 report under RCW 42.17.065.

22 (49) "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing,  
23 photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any  
24 form of communication or representation, including, but not limited to,  
25 letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combination thereof,  
26 and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and  
27 prints, motion picture, film and video recordings, magnetic or punched  
28 cards, discs, drums, diskettes, sound recordings, and other documents  
29 including existing data compilations from which information may be  
30 obtained or translated.

31 As used in this chapter, the singular shall take the plural and any  
32 gender, the other, as the context requires.

33 **Sec. 202.** RCW 42.17.241 and 1995 c 397 s 9 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 42.17.240  
36 shall disclose for the reporting individual and each member of his or  
37 her immediate family:

1 (a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address; and  
2 (b) Each bank or savings account or insurance policy in which any  
3 such person or persons owned a direct financial interest that exceeded  
4 five thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each  
5 other item of intangible personal property in which any such person or  
6 persons owned a direct financial interest, the value of which exceeded  
7 five hundred dollars during the reporting period; the name, address,  
8 and nature of the entity; and the nature and highest value of each such  
9 direct financial interest during the reporting period; and  
10 (c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of five  
11 hundred dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each debt to  
12 each such creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor as of  
13 the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each such debt; and the  
14 security given, if any, for each such debt: PROVIDED, That debts  
15 arising out of a "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter  
16 63.14 RCW (Retail Installment Sales Act) need not be reported; and  
17 (d) Every public or private office, directorship, and position held  
18 as trustee; and  
19 (e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard  
20 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred  
21 compensation: PROVIDED, That for the purposes of this subsection,  
22 "compensation" does not include payments made to the person reporting  
23 by the governmental entity for which such person serves as an elected  
24 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for  
25 his service in office; the description of such actual or proposed  
26 legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of current or  
27 deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid; and  
28 (f) The name and address of each governmental entity, corporation,  
29 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union, or  
30 other business or commercial entity from whom compensation has been  
31 received in any form of a total value of five hundred dollars or more;  
32 the value of the compensation; and the consideration given or performed  
33 in exchange for the compensation; and  
34 (g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,  
35 association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,  
36 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership  
37 interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office,  
38 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and

1 with respect to each such entity: (i) With respect to a governmental  
2 unit in which the official seeks or holds any office or position, if  
3 the entity has received compensation in any form during the preceding  
4 twelve months from the governmental unit, the value of the compensation  
5 and the consideration given or performed in exchange for the  
6 compensation; (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation,  
7 partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union, or  
8 other business or commercial entity from which the entity has received  
9 compensation in any form in the amount of two thousand five hundred  
10 dollars or more during the preceding twelve months and the  
11 consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation:  
12 PROVIDED, That the term "compensation" for purposes of this subsection  
13 (1)(g)(ii) does not include payment for water and other utility  
14 services at rates approved by the Washington state utilities and  
15 transportation commission or the legislative authority of the public  
16 entity providing the service: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That with respect to  
17 any bank or commercial lending institution in which is held any office,  
18 directorship, partnership interest, or ownership interest, it shall  
19 only be necessary to report either the name, address, and occupation of  
20 every director and officer of the bank or commercial lending  
21 institution and the average monthly balance of each account held during  
22 the preceding twelve months by the bank or commercial lending  
23 institution from the governmental entity for which the individual is an  
24 official or candidate or professional staff member, or all interest  
25 paid by a borrower on loans from and all interest paid to a depositor  
26 by the bank or commercial lending institution if the interest exceeds  
27 six hundred dollars; and

28 (h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
29 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
30 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds two thousand five  
31 hundred dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired  
32 during the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and  
33 nature of the financial interest and of the consideration given in  
34 exchange for that interest; and

35 (i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
36 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
37 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds two thousand five  
38 hundred dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested

1 during the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and  
2 nature of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and  
3 the name and address of the person furnishing the consideration; and

4 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
5 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
6 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds two thousand five  
7 hundred dollars in which a direct financial interest was held:  
8 PROVIDED, That if a description of the property has been included in a  
9 report previously filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of  
10 this provision, by reference to the previously filed report; and

11 (k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as  
12 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of  
13 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds five thousand  
14 dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or  
15 other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation,  
16 partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership  
17 interest was held; and

18 (l) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount, at  
19 which food and beverage in excess of fifty dollars was accepted under  
20 RCW 42.52.150(5); (~~(+and+)~~) and

21 (m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount, at  
22 which items specified in RCW 42.52.010(~~(+9+)~~) (10) (d) and (f) were  
23 accepted; (~~(+and+)~~) and

24 (n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary in  
25 order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this chapter,  
26 as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

27 (2) Where an amount is required to be reported under subsection  
28 (1)(a) through (m) of this section, it shall be sufficient to comply  
29 with the requirement to report whether the amount is less than one  
30 thousand dollars, at least one thousand dollars but less than five  
31 thousand dollars, at least five thousand dollars but less than ten  
32 thousand dollars, at least ten thousand dollars but less than twenty-  
33 five thousand dollars, or twenty-five thousand dollars or more. An  
34 amount of stock may be reported by number of shares instead of by  
35 market value. No provision of this subsection may be interpreted to  
36 prevent any person from filing more information or more detailed  
37 information than required.



1 (3) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse,  
2 domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official or  
3 employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent  
4 business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and  
5 the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

6 **Sec. 203.** RCW 42.52.040 and 1994 c 154 s 104 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Except in the course of official duties or incident to official  
9 duties, no state officer or state employee may assist another person,  
10 directly or indirectly, whether or not for compensation, in a  
11 transaction involving the state:

12 (a) In which the state officer or state employee has at any time  
13 participated; or

14 (b) If the transaction involving the state is or has been under the  
15 official responsibility of the state officer or state employee within  
16 a period of two years preceding such assistance.

17 (2) No state officer or state employee may share in compensation  
18 received by another for assistance that the officer or employee is  
19 prohibited from providing under subsection (1) or (3) of this section.

20 (3) A business entity of which a state officer or state employee is  
21 a partner, managing officer, or employee shall not assist another  
22 person in a transaction involving the state if the state officer or  
23 state employee is prohibited from doing so by subsection (1) of this  
24 section.

25 (4) This chapter does not prevent a state officer or state employee  
26 from assisting, in a transaction involving the state:

27 (a) The state officer's or state employee's parent, spouse or  
28 domestic partner, or child, or a child thereof for whom the officer or  
29 employee is serving as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, or  
30 other personal fiduciary, if the state officer or state employee did  
31 not participate in the transaction; or

32 (b) Another state employee involved in disciplinary or other  
33 personnel administration proceedings.

34 **Sec. 204.** RCW 43.03.305 and 1999 c 102 s 1 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

1       There is created a commission to be known as the Washington  
2 citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials, to consist of  
3 sixteen members appointed by the governor as provided in this section.

4       (1) Nine of the sixteen commission members shall be selected by lot  
5 by the secretary of state from among those registered voters eligible  
6 to vote at the time persons are selected for appointment to full terms  
7 on the commission under subsection (3) of this section. One member  
8 shall be selected from each congressional district. The secretary  
9 shall establish policies and procedures for conducting the selection by  
10 lot. The policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to,  
11 those for notifying persons selected and for providing a new selection  
12 from a congressional district if a person selected from the district  
13 declines appointment to the commission or if, following the person's  
14 appointment, the person's position on the commission becomes vacant  
15 before the end of the person's term of office.

16       (2) The remaining seven of the sixteen commission members, all  
17 residents of this state, shall be selected jointly by the speaker of  
18 the house of representatives and the president of the senate. The  
19 persons selected under this subsection shall have had experience in the  
20 field of personnel management. Of these seven members, one shall be  
21 selected from each of the following five sectors in this state:  
22 Private institutions of higher education; business; professional  
23 personnel management; legal profession; and organized labor. Of the  
24 two remaining members, one shall be a person recommended to the speaker  
25 and the president by the chair of the Washington personnel resources  
26 board and one shall be a person recommended by majority vote of the  
27 presidents of the state's four-year institutions of higher education.

28       (3) The secretary of state shall forward the names of persons  
29 selected under subsection (1) of this section and the speaker of the  
30 house of representatives and president of the senate shall forward the  
31 names of persons selected under subsection (2) of this section to the  
32 governor who shall appoint these persons to the commission. Except as  
33 provided in subsection (6) of this section, the names of persons  
34 selected for appointment to the commission shall be forwarded to the  
35 governor not later than February 15, 1987, and not later than the  
36 fifteenth day of February every four years through 1999. The terms of  
37 the members selected in 1999 shall terminate July 1, 2002, and the  
38 names of persons selected for appointment to the commission shall be

1 forwarded to the governor not later than July 1, 2002. Of the sixteen  
2 names forwarded to the governor in 2002, the governor shall by lot  
3 select four of the persons selected under subsection (1) of this  
4 section and four of the persons selected under subsection (2) of this  
5 section to serve two-year terms, with the rest of the members serving  
6 four-year terms. Thereafter, except as provided in subsection (6) of  
7 this section, all members shall serve four-year terms and the names of  
8 eight persons selected for appointment to the commission shall be  
9 forwarded to the governor not later than the first day of July every  
10 two years.

11 (4) No person may be appointed to more than two terms. No member  
12 of the commission may be removed by the governor during his or her term  
13 of office unless for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of  
14 duty, or malfeasance in office or for a disqualifying change of  
15 residence.

16 The unexcused absence of any person who is a member of the  
17 commission from two consecutive meetings of the commission shall  
18 constitute the relinquishment of that person's membership on the  
19 commission. Such a relinquishment creates a vacancy in that person's  
20 position on the commission. A member's absence may be excused by the  
21 chair of the commission upon the member's written request if the chair  
22 believes there is just cause for the absence. Such a request must be  
23 received by the chair before the meeting for which the absence is to be  
24 excused. A member's absence from a meeting of the commission may also  
25 be excused during the meeting for which the member is absent by the  
26 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the commission present  
27 at the meeting.

28 (5) No state official, public employee, or lobbyist, or immediate  
29 family member of the official, employee, or lobbyist, subject to the  
30 registration requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW is eligible for  
31 membership on the commission.

32 As used in this subsection the phrase "immediate family" means the  
33 parents, spouse or domestic partner, siblings, children, or dependent  
34 relative of the official, employee, or lobbyist whether or not living  
35 in the household of the official, employee, or lobbyist.

36 (6) Upon a vacancy in any position on the commission, a successor  
37 shall be selected and appointed to fill the unexpired term. The

1 selection and appointment shall be concluded within thirty days of the  
2 date the position becomes vacant and shall be conducted in the same  
3 manner as originally provided.

4 **PART III - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE--NURSING HOMES--ELDER CARE**

5 **Sec. 301.** RCW 43.185A.010 and 2000 c 255 s 9 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) "Affordable housing" means residential housing for rental  
10 occupancy which, as long as the same is occupied by low-income  
11 households, requires payment of monthly housing costs, including  
12 utilities other than telephone, of no more than thirty percent of the  
13 family's income. The department shall adopt policies for residential  
14 homeownership housing, occupied by low-income households, which specify  
15 the percentage of family income that may be spent on monthly housing  
16 costs, including utilities other than telephone, to qualify as  
17 affordable housing.

18 (2) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and  
19 economic development.

20 (3) "Director" means the director of the department of community,  
21 trade, and economic development.

22 (4) "First-time home buyer" means an individual or his or her  
23 spouse or domestic partner who have not owned a home during the three-  
24 year period prior to purchase of a home.

25 (5) "Low-income household" means a single person, family or  
26 unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is less than  
27 eighty percent of the median family income, adjusted for household  
28 size, for the county where the project is located.

29 **Sec. 302.** RCW 43.20B.080 and 2005 c 292 s 6 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) The department shall file liens, seek adjustment, or otherwise  
32 effect recovery for medical assistance correctly paid on behalf of an  
33 individual consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p. The department shall  
34 adopt a rule providing for prior notice and hearing rights to the  
35 record title holder or purchaser under a land sale contract.

1 (2) Liens may be adjusted by foreclosure in accordance with chapter  
2 61.12 RCW.

3 (3) In the case of an individual who was fifty-five years of age or  
4 older when the individual received medical assistance, the department  
5 shall seek adjustment or recovery from the individual's estate, and  
6 from nonprobate assets of the individual as defined by RCW 11.02.005,  
7 but only for medical assistance consisting of nursing facility  
8 services, home and community-based services, other services that the  
9 department determines to be appropriate, and related hospital and  
10 prescription drug services. Recovery from the individual's estate,  
11 including foreclosure of liens imposed under this section, shall be  
12 undertaken as soon as practicable, consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec.  
13 1396p.

14 (4) The department shall apply the medical assistance estate  
15 recovery law as it existed on the date that benefits were received when  
16 calculating an estate's liability to reimburse the department for those  
17 benefits.

18 (5)(a) The department shall establish procedures consistent with  
19 standards established by the federal department of health and human  
20 services and pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p to waive recovery when  
21 such recovery would work an undue hardship. The department shall  
22 recognize an undue hardship for a surviving domestic partner whenever  
23 recovery would not have been permitted if he or she had been a  
24 surviving spouse. The department is not authorized to pursue recovery  
25 under such circumstances.

26 (b) Recovery of medical assistance from a recipient's estate shall  
27 not include property made exempt from claims by federal law or treaty,  
28 including exemption for tribal artifacts that may be held by individual  
29 Native Americans.

30 (6) A lien authorized under this section relates back to attach to  
31 any real property that the decedent had an ownership interest in  
32 immediately before death and is effective as of that date or date of  
33 recording, whichever is earlier.

34 (7) The department may enforce a lien authorized under this section  
35 against a decedent's life estate or joint tenancy interest in real  
36 property held by the decedent immediately prior to his or her death.  
37 Such a lien enforced under this subsection shall not end and shall

1 continue as provided in this subsection until the department's lien has  
2 been satisfied.

3 (a) The value of the life estate subject to the lien shall be the  
4 value of the decedent's interest in the property subject to the life  
5 estate immediately prior to the decedent's death.

6 (b) The value of the joint tenancy interest subject to the lien  
7 shall be the value of the decedent's fractional interest the recipient  
8 would have owned in the jointly held interest in the property had the  
9 recipient and the surviving joint tenants held title to the property as  
10 tenants in common on the date of the recipient's death.

11 (c) The department may not enforce the lien provided by this  
12 subsection against a bona fide purchaser or encumbrancer that obtains  
13 an interest in the property after the death of the recipient and before  
14 the department records either its lien or the request for notice of  
15 transfer or encumbrance as provided by RCW 43.20B.750.

16 (d) The department may not enforce a lien provided by this  
17 subsection against any property right that vested prior to July 1,  
18 2005.

19 (8)(a) Subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p(a) and  
20 the conditions of this subsection (8), the department is authorized to  
21 file a lien against the property of an individual prior to his or her  
22 death, and to seek adjustment and recovery from the individual's estate  
23 or sale of the property subject to the lien, if:

24 (i) The individual is an inpatient in a nursing facility,  
25 intermediate care facility for individuals with mental retardation, or  
26 other medical institution; and

27 (ii) The department has determined after notice and opportunity for  
28 a hearing that the individual cannot reasonably be expected to be  
29 discharged from the medical institution and to return home.

30 (b) If the individual is discharged from the medical facility and  
31 returns home, the department shall dissolve the lien.

32 (9) The department is authorized to adopt rules to effect recovery  
33 under this section. The department may adopt by rule later enactments  
34 of the federal laws referenced in this section.

35 (10) It is the responsibility of the department to fully disclose  
36 in advance verbally and in writing, in easy to understand language, the  
37 terms and conditions of estate recovery to all persons offered long-  
38 term care services subject to recovery of payments.

1 (11) In disclosing estate recovery costs to potential clients, and  
2 to family members at the consent of the client, the department shall  
3 provide a written description of the community service options.

4 **Sec. 303.** RCW 70.123.020 and 1991 c 301 s 9 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Shelter" means a place of temporary refuge, offered on a  
9 twenty-four hour, seven day per week basis to victims of domestic  
10 violence and their children.

11 (2) "Domestic violence" is a categorization of offenses, as defined  
12 in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one cohabitant against another.

13 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health  
14 services.

15 (4) "Victim" means a cohabitant who has been subjected to domestic  
16 violence.

17 (5) "Cohabitant" means a person who is or was married, in a state  
18 registered domestic partnership, or (~~who is~~) cohabiting with (~~(a)~~)  
19 another person (~~(of the opposite sex like husband and wife)~~) at the  
20 present or at sometime in the past. Any person who has one or more  
21 children in common with another person, regardless of whether they have  
22 been married, in a domestic partnership with each other, or lived  
23 together at any time, shall be treated as a cohabitant.

24 (6) "Community advocate" means a person employed by a local  
25 domestic violence program to provide ongoing assistance to victims of  
26 domestic violence in assessing safety needs, documenting the incidents  
27 and the extent of violence for possible use in the legal system, making  
28 appropriate social service referrals, and developing protocols and  
29 maintaining ongoing contacts necessary for local systems coordination.

30 (7) "Domestic violence program" means an agency that provides  
31 shelter, advocacy, and counseling for domestic violence victims in a  
32 supportive environment.

33 (8) "Legal advocate" means a person employed by a domestic violence  
34 program or court system to advocate for victims of domestic violence,  
35 within the criminal and civil justice systems, by attending court  
36 proceedings, assisting in document and case preparation, and ensuring  
37 linkage with the community advocate.

1 (9) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and  
2 health services or the secretary's designee.

3 **Sec. 304.** RCW 70.129.140 and 1994 c 214 s 15 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The facility must promote care for residents in a manner and in  
6 an environment that maintains or enhances each resident's dignity and  
7 respect in full recognition of his or her individuality.

8 (2) Within reasonable facility rules designed to protect the rights  
9 and quality of life of residents, the resident has the right to:

10 (a) Choose activities, schedules, and health care consistent with  
11 his or her interests, assessments, and plans of care;

12 (b) Interact with members of the community both inside and outside  
13 the facility;

14 (c) Make choices about aspects of his or her life in the facility  
15 that are significant to the resident;

16 (d) Wear his or her own clothing and determine his or her own  
17 dress, hair style, or other personal effects according to individual  
18 preference;

19 (e) Unless adjudged incompetent or otherwise found to be legally  
20 incapacitated, participate in planning care and treatment or changes in  
21 care and treatment;

22 (f) Unless adjudged incompetent or otherwise found to be legally  
23 incapacitated, to direct his or her own service plan and changes in the  
24 service plan, and to refuse any particular service so long as such  
25 refusal is documented in the record of the resident.

26 (3)(a) A resident has the right to organize and participate in  
27 resident groups in the facility.

28 (b) A resident's family has the right to meet in the facility with  
29 the families of other residents in the facility.

30 (c) The facility must provide a resident or family group, if one  
31 exists, with meeting space.

32 (d) Staff or visitors may attend meetings at the group's  
33 invitation.

34 (e) When a resident or family group exists, the facility must  
35 listen to the views and act upon the grievances and recommendations of  
36 residents and families concerning proposed policy and operational  
37 decisions affecting resident care and life in the facility.



1 (f) The resident has the right to refuse to perform services for  
2 the facility except as voluntarily agreed by the resident and the  
3 facility in the resident's service plan.

4 (4) A resident has the right to participate in social, religious,  
5 and community activities that do not interfere with the rights of other  
6 residents in the facility.

7 (5) A resident has the right to:

8 (a) Reside and receive services in the facility with reasonable  
9 accommodation of individual needs and preferences, except when the  
10 health or safety of the individual or other residents would be  
11 endangered; and

12 (b) Receive notice before the resident's room or roommate in the  
13 facility is changed.

14 (6) A resident has the right to share a double room with his or her  
15 spouse or domestic partner when (~~married~~) residents who are married  
16 to each other or in a domestic partnership with each other live in the  
17 same facility and both spouses or both domestic partners consent to the  
18 arrangement.

19 **Sec. 305.** RCW 74.42.070 and 1979 ex.s. c 211 s 7 are each amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 Residents shall be given privacy during treatment and care of  
22 personal needs. (~~Married~~) Residents who are spouses or domestic  
23 partners shall be given privacy during visits with their spouses or  
24 their domestic partners. If both (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or both  
25 domestic partners are residents of the facility, the facility shall  
26 permit the (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or domestic partners to share  
27 a room, unless medically contraindicated.

28 **PART IV - JUDICIAL PROCESS--VICTIM'S RIGHTS**

29 **Sec. 401.** RCW 4.22.020 and 1987 c 212 s 801 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 The contributory fault of one spouse or one domestic partner shall  
32 not be imputed to the other spouse or other domestic partner or the  
33 minor child of the spouse or domestic partner to diminish recovery in  
34 an action by the other spouse or other domestic partner or the minor  
35 child of the spouse or other domestic partner, or his or her legal

1 representative, to recover damages caused by fault resulting in death  
2 or in injury to the person or property, whether separate or community,  
3 of the spouse or domestic partner. In an action brought for wrongful  
4 death or loss of consortium, the contributory fault of the decedent or  
5 injured person shall be imputed to the claimant in that action.

6 **Sec. 402.** RCW 5.60.060 and 2007 c 472 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) A (~~husband~~) spouse or domestic partner shall not be examined  
9 for or against his (~~wife~~) or her spouse or domestic partner, without  
10 the consent of the (~~wife, nor a wife for or against her husband~~  
11 ~~without the consent of the husband~~) spouse or domestic partner; nor  
12 can either during marriage or during the domestic partnership or  
13 afterward, be without the consent of the other, examined as to any  
14 communication made by one to the other during the marriage or the  
15 domestic partnership. But this exception shall not apply to a civil  
16 action or proceeding by one against the other, nor to a criminal action  
17 or proceeding for a crime committed by one against the other, nor to a  
18 criminal action or proceeding against a spouse or domestic partner if  
19 the marriage or the domestic partnership occurred subsequent to the  
20 filing of formal charges against the defendant, nor to a criminal  
21 action or proceeding for a crime committed by said (~~husband or wife~~)  
22 spouse or domestic partner against any child of whom said (~~husband or~~  
23 ~~wife~~) spouse or domestic partner is the parent or guardian, nor to a  
24 proceeding under chapter 70.96A, 70.96B, 71.05, or 71.09 RCW:  
25 PROVIDED, That the spouse or the domestic partner of a person sought to  
26 be detained under chapter 70.96A, 70.96B, 71.05, or 71.09 RCW may not  
27 be compelled to testify and shall be so informed by the court prior to  
28 being called as a witness.

29 (2)(a) An attorney or counselor shall not, without the consent of  
30 his or her client, be examined as to any communication made by the  
31 client to him or her, or his or her advice given thereon in the course  
32 of professional employment.

33 (b) A parent or guardian of a minor child arrested on a criminal  
34 charge may not be examined as to a communication between the child and  
35 his or her attorney if the communication was made in the presence of  
36 the parent or guardian. This privilege does not extend to  
37 communications made prior to the arrest.

1 (3) A member of the clergy, a Christian Science practitioner listed  
2 in the Christian Science Journal, or a priest shall not, without the  
3 consent of a person making the confession or sacred confidence, be  
4 examined as to any confession or sacred confidence made to him or her  
5 in his or her professional character, in the course of discipline  
6 enjoined by the church to which he or she belongs.

7 (4) Subject to the limitations under RCW 70.96A.140 or 71.05.360  
8 (8) and (9), a physician or surgeon or osteopathic physician or surgeon  
9 or podiatric physician or surgeon shall not, without the consent of his  
10 or her patient, be examined in a civil action as to any information  
11 acquired in attending such patient, which was necessary to enable him  
12 or her to prescribe or act for the patient, except as follows:

13 (a) In any judicial proceedings regarding a child's injury,  
14 neglect, or sexual abuse or the cause thereof; and

15 (b) Ninety days after filing an action for personal injuries or  
16 wrongful death, the claimant shall be deemed to waive the physician-  
17 patient privilege. Waiver of the physician-patient privilege for any  
18 one physician or condition constitutes a waiver of the privilege as to  
19 all physicians or conditions, subject to such limitations as a court  
20 may impose pursuant to court rules.

21 (5) A public officer shall not be examined as a witness as to  
22 communications made to him or her in official confidence, when the  
23 public interest would suffer by the disclosure.

24 (6)(a) A peer support group counselor shall not, without consent of  
25 the law enforcement officer or firefighter making the communication, be  
26 compelled to testify about any communication made to the counselor by  
27 the officer or firefighter while receiving counseling. The counselor  
28 must be designated as such by the sheriff, police chief, fire chief, or  
29 chief of the Washington state patrol, prior to the incident that  
30 results in counseling. The privilege only applies when the  
31 communication was made to the counselor while acting in his or her  
32 capacity as a peer support group counselor. The privilege does not  
33 apply if the counselor was an initial responding officer or  
34 firefighter, a witness, or a party to the incident which prompted the  
35 delivery of peer support group counseling services to the law  
36 enforcement officer or firefighter.

37 (b) For purposes of this section, "peer support group counselor"  
38 means a:

1 (i) Law enforcement officer, firefighter, civilian employee of a  
2 law enforcement agency, or civilian employee of a fire department, who  
3 has received training to provide emotional and moral support and  
4 counseling to an officer or firefighter who needs those services as a  
5 result of an incident in which the officer or firefighter was involved  
6 while acting in his or her official capacity; or

7 (ii) Nonemployee counselor who has been designated by the sheriff,  
8 police chief, fire chief, or chief of the Washington state patrol to  
9 provide emotional and moral support and counseling to an officer or  
10 firefighter who needs those services as a result of an incident in  
11 which the officer or firefighter was involved while acting in his or  
12 her official capacity.

13 (7) A sexual assault advocate may not, without the consent of the  
14 victim, be examined as to any communication made between the victim and  
15 the sexual assault advocate.

16 (a) For purposes of this section, "sexual assault advocate" means  
17 the employee or volunteer from a rape crisis center, victim assistance  
18 unit, program, or association, that provides information, medical or  
19 legal advocacy, counseling, or support to victims of sexual assault,  
20 who is designated by the victim to accompany the victim to the hospital  
21 or other health care facility and to proceedings concerning the alleged  
22 assault, including police and prosecution interviews and court  
23 proceedings.

24 (b) A sexual assault advocate may disclose a confidential  
25 communication without the consent of the victim if failure to disclose  
26 is likely to result in a clear, imminent risk of serious physical  
27 injury or death of the victim or another person. Any sexual assault  
28 advocate participating in good faith in the disclosing of records and  
29 communications under this section shall have immunity from any  
30 liability, civil, criminal, or otherwise, that might result from the  
31 action. In any proceeding, civil or criminal, arising out of a  
32 disclosure under this section, the good faith of the sexual assault  
33 advocate who disclosed the confidential communication shall be  
34 presumed.

35 (8) A domestic violence advocate may not, without the consent of  
36 the victim, be examined as to any communication between the victim and  
37 the domestic violence advocate.

1 (a) For purposes of this section, "domestic violence advocate"  
2 means an employee or supervised volunteer from a community-based  
3 domestic violence program or human services program that provides  
4 information, advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention, emergency  
5 shelter, or support to victims of domestic violence and who is not  
6 employed by, or under the direct supervision of, a law enforcement  
7 agency, a prosecutor's office, or the child protective services section  
8 of the department of social and health services as defined in RCW  
9 26.44.020.

10 (b) A domestic violence advocate may disclose a confidential  
11 communication without the consent of the victim if failure to disclose  
12 is likely to result in a clear, imminent risk of serious physical  
13 injury or death of the victim or another person. This section does not  
14 relieve a domestic violence advocate from the requirement to report or  
15 cause to be reported an incident under RCW 26.44.030(1) or to disclose  
16 relevant records relating to a child as required by RCW  
17 26.44.030(~~(+11+)~~) (12). Any domestic violence advocate participating  
18 in good faith in the disclosing of communications under this subsection  
19 is immune from liability, civil, criminal, or otherwise, that might  
20 result from the action. In any proceeding, civil or criminal, arising  
21 out of a disclosure under this subsection, the good faith of the  
22 domestic violence advocate who disclosed the confidential communication  
23 shall be presumed.

24 **Sec. 403.** RCW 5.66.010 and 2002 c 334 s 1 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 (1) The portion of statements, writings, or benevolent gestures  
27 expressing sympathy or a general sense of benevolence relating to the  
28 pain, suffering, or death of a person involved in an accident, and made  
29 to that person or to the family of that person, shall be inadmissible  
30 as evidence in a civil action. A statement of fault, however, which is  
31 part of, or in addition to, any of the above shall not be made  
32 inadmissible by this section.

33 (2) For purposes of this section:

34 (a) "Accident" means an occurrence resulting in injury or death to  
35 one or more persons that is not the result of willful action by a  
36 party.

1 (b) "Benevolent gestures" means actions that convey a sense of  
2 compassion or commiseration emanating from humane impulses.

3 (c) "Family" means the spouse or the domestic partner, parent,  
4 grandparent, stepmother, stepfather, child, grandchild, brother,  
5 sister, half brother, half sister, adopted child of a parent, or  
6 spouse's or domestic partner's parents of an injured party.

7 **Sec. 404.** RCW 7.69.020 and 1993 c 350 s 5 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
10 this section apply throughout this chapter.

11 (1) "Crime" means an act punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor,  
12 or misdemeanor under the laws of this state or equivalent federal or  
13 local law.

14 (2) "Survivor" or "survivors" of a victim of crime means a spouse  
15 or domestic partner, child, parent, legal guardian, sibling, or  
16 grandparent. If there is more than one survivor of a victim of crime,  
17 one survivor shall be designated by the prosecutor to represent all  
18 survivors for purposes of providing the notice to survivors required by  
19 this chapter.

20 (3) "Victim" means a person against whom a crime has been committed  
21 or the representative of a person against whom a crime has been  
22 committed.

23 (4) "Victim impact statement" means a statement submitted to the  
24 court by the victim or a survivor, individually or with the assistance  
25 of the prosecuting attorney if assistance is requested by the victim or  
26 survivor, which may include but is not limited to information assessing  
27 the financial, medical, social, and psychological impact of the offense  
28 upon the victim or survivors.

29 (5) "Witness" means a person who has been or is expected to be  
30 summoned to testify for the prosecution in a criminal action, or who by  
31 reason of having relevant information is subject to call or likely to  
32 be called as a witness for the prosecution, whether or not an action or  
33 proceeding has been commenced.

34 (6) "Crime victim/witness program" means any crime victim and  
35 witness program of a county or local law enforcement agency or  
36 prosecutor's office, any rape crisis center's sexual assault victim  
37 advocacy program as provided in chapter 70.125 RCW, any domestic

1 violence program's legal and community advocate program for domestic  
2 violence victims as provided in chapter 70.123 RCW, or any other crime  
3 victim advocacy program which provides trained advocates to assist  
4 crime victims during the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

5 **Sec. 405.** RCW 7.69B.010 and 2005 c 381 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
8 this section apply throughout this chapter.

9 (1) "Crime" means an act punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor,  
10 or misdemeanor under the laws of this state or equivalent federal or  
11 local law.

12 (2) "Dependent person" has the same meaning as that term is defined  
13 in RCW 9A.42.010.

14 (3) "Victim" means a living person against whom a crime has been  
15 committed.

16 (4) "Witness" means a person who has been or is expected to be  
17 summoned to testify for the prosecution or defense in a criminal  
18 action, or who by reason of having relevant information is subject to  
19 call or likely to be called as a witness, whether or not an action or  
20 proceeding has been commenced.

21 (5) "Family member" means a person who is not accused of a crime  
22 and who is an adult child, adult sibling, spouse or domestic partner,  
23 parent, or legal guardian of the dependent person.

24 (6) "Advocate" means any person not accused of a crime, including  
25 a family member, approved by the witness or victim, in consultation  
26 with his or her guardian if applicable, who provides support to a  
27 dependent person during any legal proceeding.

28 (7) "Court proceedings" means any court proceeding conducted during  
29 the course of the prosecution of a crime committed against a dependent  
30 person, including pretrial hearings, trial, sentencing, or appellate  
31 proceedings.

32 (8) "Identifying information" means the dependent person's name,  
33 address, location, and photograph, and in cases in which the dependent  
34 person is a relative of the alleged perpetrator, identification of the  
35 relationship between the dependent person and the alleged perpetrator.

36 (9) "Crime victim/witness program" means any crime victim and  
37 witness program of a county or local law enforcement agency or

1 prosecutor's office, any rape crisis center's sexual assault victim  
2 advocacy program as provided in chapter 70.125 RCW, any domestic  
3 violence program's legal and community advocate program for domestic  
4 violence victims as provided in chapter 70.123 RCW, or any other crime  
5 victim advocacy program which provides trained advocates to assist  
6 crime victims during the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

7 **Sec. 406.** RCW 26.50.010 and 1999 c 184 s 13 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the  
10 meanings given them:

11 (1) "Domestic violence" means: (a) Physical harm, bodily injury,  
12 assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily  
13 injury or assault, between family or household members; (b) sexual  
14 assault of one family or household member by another; or (c) stalking  
15 as defined in RCW 9A.46.110 of one family or household member by  
16 another family or household member.

17 (2) "Family or household members" means spouses, domestic partners,  
18 former spouses, former domestic partners, persons who have a child in  
19 common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived  
20 together at any time, adult persons related by blood or marriage, adult  
21 persons who are presently residing together or who have resided  
22 together in the past, persons sixteen years of age or older who are  
23 presently residing together or who have resided together in the past  
24 and who have or have had a dating relationship, persons sixteen years  
25 of age or older with whom a person sixteen years of age or older has or  
26 has had a dating relationship, and persons who have a biological or  
27 legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren  
28 and grandparents and grandchildren.

29 (3) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship of a romantic  
30 nature. Factors that the court may consider in making this  
31 determination include: (a) The length of time the relationship has  
32 existed; (b) the nature of the relationship; and (c) the frequency of  
33 interaction between the parties.

34 (4) "Court" includes the superior, district, and municipal courts  
35 of the state of Washington.

36 (5) "Judicial day" does not include Saturdays, Sundays, or legal  
37 holidays.



1 (6) "Electronic monitoring" means a program in which a person's  
2 presence at a particular location is monitored from a remote location  
3 by use of electronic equipment.

4 (7) "Essential personal effects" means those items necessary for a  
5 person's immediate health, welfare, and livelihood. "Essential  
6 personal effects" includes but is not limited to clothing, cribs,  
7 bedding, documents, medications, and personal hygiene items.

8 **Sec. 407.** RCW 4.08.030 and 1972 ex.s. c 108 s 1 are each amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 Either (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or either domestic partner may  
11 sue on behalf of the community: PROVIDED, That

12 (1) When the action is for personal injuries, the spouse or the  
13 domestic partner having sustained personal injuries is a necessary  
14 party;

15 (2) When the action is for compensation for services rendered, the  
16 spouse or the domestic partner having rendered the services is a  
17 necessary party.

18 **Sec. 408.** RCW 4.08.040 and 1972 ex.s. c 108 s 2 are each amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 (~~Husband and wife~~) Either spouse or either domestic partner may  
21 join in all causes of action arising from injuries to the person or  
22 character of either or both of them, or from injuries to the property  
23 of either or both of them, or arising out of any contract in favor of  
24 either or both of them.

25 If (~~a husband and wife be~~) the spouses or the domestic partners  
26 are sued together, either or both spouses or either or both domestic  
27 partners may defend, and if one spouse or one domestic partner neglects  
28 to defend, the other spouse or other domestic partner may defend for  
29 the nonacting spouse or nonacting domestic partner also. (~~And~~) Each  
30 spouse or each domestic partner may defend in all cases in which he or  
31 she is interested, whether that spouse or that domestic partner is sued  
32 with the other spouse or other domestic partner or not.

33 **Sec. 409.** RCW 4.20.046 and 1993 c 44 s 1 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 (1) All causes of action by a person or persons against another

1 person or persons shall survive to the personal representatives of the  
2 former and against the personal representatives of the latter, whether  
3 such actions arise on contract or otherwise, and whether or not such  
4 actions would have survived at the common law or prior to the date of  
5 enactment of this section: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the personal  
6 representative shall only be entitled to recover damages for pain and  
7 suffering, anxiety, emotional distress, or humiliation personal to and  
8 suffered by a deceased on behalf of those beneficiaries enumerated in  
9 RCW 4.20.020, and such damages are recoverable regardless of whether or  
10 not the death was occasioned by the injury that is the basis for the  
11 action. The liability of property of (~~a husband and wife~~) spouses or  
12 domestic partners held by them as community property to execution in  
13 satisfaction of a claim enforceable against such property so held shall  
14 not be affected by the death of either or both spouses or either or  
15 both domestic partners; and a cause of action shall remain an asset as  
16 though both claiming spouses or claiming domestic partners continued to  
17 live despite the death of either or both claiming spouses or claiming  
18 domestic partners.

19 (2) Where death or an injury to person or property, resulting from  
20 a wrongful act, neglect or default, occurs simultaneously with or after  
21 the death of a person who would have been liable therefor if his or her  
22 death had not occurred simultaneously with such death or injury or had  
23 not intervened between the wrongful act, neglect or default and the  
24 resulting death or injury, an action to recover damages for such death  
25 or injury may be maintained against the personal representative of such  
26 person.

27 **PART V - VETERANS**

28 **Sec. 501.** RCW 28B.15.621 and 2007 c 450 s 1 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The legislature finds that active military and naval veterans,  
31 reserve military and naval veterans, and national guard members called  
32 to active duty have served their country and have risked their lives to  
33 defend the lives of all Americans and the freedoms that define and  
34 distinguish our nation. The legislature intends to honor active  
35 military and naval veterans, reserve military and naval veterans, and

1 national guard members who have served on active military or naval duty  
2 for the public service they have provided to this country.

3 (2) Subject to the limitations in RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
4 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, The  
5 Evergreen State College, and the community colleges, may waive all or  
6 a portion of tuition and fees for an eligible veteran or national guard  
7 member.

8 (3) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
9 universities, The Evergreen State College, and the community colleges,  
10 may waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for a military or naval  
11 veteran who is a Washington domiciliary, but who did not serve on  
12 foreign soil or in international waters or in another location in  
13 support of those serving on foreign soil or in international waters and  
14 who does not qualify as an eligible veteran or national guard member  
15 under subsection (8) of this section. However, there shall be no state  
16 general fund support for waivers granted under this subsection.

17 (4) Subject to the conditions in subsection (5) of this section,  
18 the governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
19 universities, The Evergreen State College, and the community colleges,  
20 shall waive all tuition and fees for the following persons:

21 (a) A child and the spouse or the domestic partner or surviving  
22 spouse or surviving domestic partner of an eligible veteran or national  
23 guard member who became totally disabled as defined in RCW 28B.15.385  
24 while engaged in active federal military or naval service, or who is  
25 determined by the federal government to be a prisoner of war or missing  
26 in action; and

27 (b) A child and the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner  
28 of an eligible veteran or national guard member who lost his or her  
29 life while engaged in active federal military or naval service.

30 (5) The conditions in this subsection (5) apply to waivers under  
31 subsection (4) of this section.

32 (a) A child must be a Washington domiciliary between the age of  
33 seventeen and twenty-six to be eligible for the tuition waiver. A  
34 child's marital status does not affect eligibility.

35 (b) A surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner must be a  
36 Washington domiciliary. A surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
37 partner has ten years from the date of the death, total disability as  
38 defined in RCW 28B.15.385, or federal determination of prisoner of war

1 or missing in action status of the eligible veteran or national guard  
2 member to receive the benefit. Upon remarriage or registration in a  
3 subsequent domestic partnership, the surviving spouse or surviving  
4 domestic partner is ineligible for the waiver of all tuition and fees.

5 (c) Each recipient's continued participation is subject to the  
6 school's satisfactory progress policy.

7 (6) Required waivers of all tuition and fees under subsection (4)  
8 of this section shall not affect permissive waivers of tuition and fees  
9 under subsection (3) of this section.

10 (7) Private vocational schools and private higher education  
11 institutions are encouraged to provide waivers consistent with the  
12 terms in subsections (2) through (5) of this section.

13 (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
14 section.

15 (a) "Eligible veteran or national guard member" means a Washington  
16 domiciliary who was an active or reserve member of the United States  
17 military or naval forces, or a national guard member called to active  
18 duty, who served in active federal service, under either Title 10 or  
19 Title 32 of the United States Code, in a war or conflict fought on  
20 foreign soil or in international waters or in another location in  
21 support of those serving on foreign soil or in international waters,  
22 and if discharged from service, has received an honorable discharge.

23 (b) "Washington domiciliary" means a person whose true, fixed, and  
24 permanent house and place of habitation is the state of Washington.  
25 "Washington domiciliary" includes a person who is residing in rental  
26 housing or residing in base housing. In ascertaining whether a child  
27 or surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is domiciled in the  
28 state of Washington, public institutions of higher education shall, to  
29 the fullest extent possible, rely upon the standards provided in RCW  
30 28B.15.013.

31 **Sec. 502.** RCW 73.08.005 and 2005 c 250 s 2 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
34 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

35 (1) "Direct costs" includes those allowable costs that can be  
36 readily assigned to the statutory objectives of this chapter,

1 consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the federal office  
2 of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated May 10, 2004.

3 (2) "Family" means the spouse or domestic partner, (~~widow,~~  
4 ~~widower~~) surviving spouse, surviving domestic partner, and dependent  
5 children of a living or deceased veteran.

6 (3) "Indigent" means a person who is defined as such by the county  
7 legislative authority using one or more of the following definitions:

8 (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:  
9 Temporary assistance for needy families, general assistance, poverty-  
10 related veterans' benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits  
11 transferred electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, or  
12 supplemental security income;

13 (b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of up to one hundred  
14 fifty percent or less of the current federally established poverty  
15 level, or receiving an annual income not exceeding a higher qualifying  
16 income established by the county legislative authority; or

17 (c) Unable to pay reasonable costs for shelter, food, utilities,  
18 and transportation because his or her available funds are insufficient.

19 (4) "Indirect costs" includes those allowable costs that are  
20 generally associated with carrying out the statutory objectives of this  
21 chapter, but the identification and tracking of those costs cannot be  
22 readily assigned to a specific statutory objective without an  
23 accounting effort that is disproportionate to the benefit received. A  
24 county legislative authority may allocate allowable indirect costs to  
25 its veterans' assistance fund if it is accomplished in a manner  
26 consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the federal office  
27 of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated May 10, 2004.

28 (5) "Veteran" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 41.04.005 and  
29 41.04.007.

30 (6) "Veterans' advisory board" means a board established by a  
31 county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.035.

32 (7) "Veterans' assistance fund" means an account in the custody of  
33 the county auditor, or the chief financial officer in a county  
34 operating under a charter, that is funded by taxes levied under the  
35 authority of RCW 73.08.080.

36 (8) "Veterans' assistance program" means a program approved by the  
37 county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.010 that

1 is fully or partially funded by the veterans' assistance fund  
2 authorized by RCW 73.08.080.

3 **Sec. 503.** RCW 72.36.030 and 1998 c 322 s 49 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 All of the following persons who have been actual bona fide  
6 residents of this state at the time of their application, and who are  
7 indigent and unable to support themselves and their families may be  
8 admitted to a state veterans' home under rules as may be adopted by the  
9 director of the department, unless sufficient facilities and resources  
10 are not available to accommodate these people:

11 (1)(a) All honorably discharged veterans of a branch of the armed  
12 forces of the United States or merchant marines; (b) members of the  
13 state militia disabled while in the line of duty; (c) Filipino World  
14 War II veterans who swore an oath to American authority and who  
15 participated in military engagements with American soldiers; and (d)  
16 the spouses or the domestic partners of these veterans, merchant  
17 marines, and members of the state militia. However, it is required  
18 that the spouse was married to and living with the veteran, or that the  
19 domestic partner was in a domestic partnership and living with the  
20 veteran, three years prior to the date of application for admittance,  
21 or, if married to or in a domestic partnership with him or her since  
22 that date, was also a resident of a state veterans' home in this state  
23 or entitled to admission thereto;

24 (2)(a) The spouses or domestic partners of: (i) All honorably  
25 discharged veterans of the United States armed forces; (ii) merchant  
26 marines; and (iii) members of the state militia who were disabled while  
27 in the line of duty and who were residents of a state veterans' home in  
28 this state or were entitled to admission to one of this state's state  
29 veteran homes at the time of death; (b) the spouses or domestic  
30 partners of: (i) All honorably discharged veterans of a branch of the  
31 United States armed forces; (ii) merchant marines; and (iii) members of  
32 the state militia who would have been entitled to admission to one of  
33 this state's state veterans' homes at the time of death, but for the  
34 fact that the spouse or domestic partner was not indigent, but has  
35 since become indigent and unable to support himself or herself and his  
36 or her family. However, the included spouse or included domestic  
37 partner shall be at least fifty years old and have been married to and

1 living with their (~~husband or wife~~) spouse, or in a domestic  
2 partnership and living with their domestic partner, for three years  
3 prior to the date of their application. The included spouse or  
4 included domestic partner shall not have been married since the death  
5 of his or her (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or domestic partner to a  
6 person who is not a resident of one of this state's state veterans'  
7 homes or entitled to admission to one of this state's state veterans'  
8 homes; and

9 (3) All applicants for admission to a state veterans' home shall  
10 apply for all federal and state benefits for which they may be  
11 eligible, including medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW.

12 **Sec. 504.** RCW 72.36.040 and 1977 ex.s. c 186 s 2 are each amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 There is hereby established what shall be known as the "Colony of  
15 the State Soldiers' Home." All of the following persons who reside  
16 within the limits of Orting school district and have been actual bona  
17 fide residents of this state at the time of their application and who  
18 have personal property of less than one thousand five hundred dollars  
19 and/or a monthly income insufficient to meet their needs outside of  
20 residence in such colony and soldiers' home as determined by standards  
21 of the department of veterans' affairs, may be admitted to membership  
22 in said colony under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by  
23 the department.

24 (1) All honorably discharged veterans who have served in the armed  
25 forces of the United States during wartime, members of the state  
26 militia disabled while in the line of duty, and their respective  
27 spouses or domestic partners with whom they have lived for three years  
28 prior to application for membership in said colony. Also, the spouse  
29 or domestic partner of any such veteran or disabled member of the state  
30 militia is eligible for membership in said colony, if such spouse or  
31 such domestic partner is the (~~widow or widower~~) surviving spouse or  
32 surviving domestic partner of a veteran who was a member of a soldiers'  
33 home or colony in this state or entitled to admission thereto at the  
34 time of death: PROVIDED, That such veterans and members of the state  
35 militia shall, while they are members of said colony, be living with  
36 their said spouses or said domestic partners.

1 (2) The spouses or domestic partners of all veterans who were  
2 members of a soldiers' home or colony in this state or entitled to  
3 admission thereto at the time of death, and the spouses or domestic  
4 partners of all veterans who would have been entitled to admission to  
5 a soldiers' home or colony in this state at the time of death but for  
6 the fact that they were not indigent and unable to support themselves  
7 and families, which spouses or domestic partners have since the death  
8 of their said (~~((husbands or wives))~~) spouses or domestic partners become  
9 indigent and unable to earn a support for themselves: PROVIDED, That  
10 such spouses or such domestic partners are not less than fifty years of  
11 age and have not been married or in a domestic partnership since the  
12 decease of their said (~~((husbands or wives))~~) spouses or said domestic  
13 partners to any person not a member of a soldiers' home or colony in  
14 this state or entitled to admission thereto. Any resident of said  
15 colony may be admitted to the state soldiers' home for temporary care  
16 when requiring treatment.

17 **Sec. 505.** RCW 72.36.050 and 1979 c 65 s 1 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

19 The members of the colony established in RCW 72.36.040 as now or  
20 hereafter amended shall, to all intents and purposes, be members of the  
21 state soldiers' home and subject to all the rules and regulations  
22 thereof, except the requirements of fatigue duty, and each member  
23 shall, in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the  
24 director, be supplied with medical attendance and supplies from the  
25 home dispensary, rations, and clothing for a member and his or her  
26 spouse or domestic partner, or for a spouse or domestic partner  
27 admitted under RCW 72.36.040 as now or hereafter amended. The value of  
28 the supplies, rations, and clothing furnished such persons shall be  
29 determined by the director of veterans affairs and be included in the  
30 biennial budget.

31 **Sec. 506.** RCW 72.36.070 and 1977 ex.s. c 186 s 4 are each amended  
32 to read as follows:

33 There shall be established and maintained in this state a branch of  
34 the state soldiers' home, under the name of the "Washington veterans'  
35 home," which branch shall be a home for honorably discharged veterans  
36 who have served the United States government in any of its wars,



1 members of the state militia disabled while in the line of duty, and  
2 who are bona fide citizens of the state, and also the spouses or  
3 domestic partners of such veterans.

4 **Sec. 507.** RCW 72.36.110 and 1959 c 120 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The superintendent of the Washington veterans' home and the  
7 superintendent of the Washington soldiers' home and colony are hereby  
8 authorized to provide for the burial of deceased members in the  
9 cemeteries provided at the Washington veterans' home and Washington  
10 soldiers' home: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed to  
11 prevent any relative from assuming jurisdiction of such deceased  
12 persons: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the superintendent of the Washington  
13 soldiers' home and colony is hereby authorized to provide for the  
14 burial of ((~~husbands and wives~~)) spouses or domestic partners of  
15 members of the colony of the Washington soldiers' home.

16 **Sec. 508.** RCW 73.04.120 and 1985 c 44 s 19 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 County clerks and county auditors, respectively, are authorized and  
19 directed to furnish free of charge to the legal representative,  
20 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, child or parent of any  
21 deceased veteran certified copies of marriage certificates, decrees of  
22 ((~~divorce~~)) dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, or  
23 annulment, or other documents contained in their files and to record  
24 and issue, free of charge, certified copies of such documents from  
25 other states, territories, or foreign countries affecting the marital  
26 status of such veteran whenever any such document shall be required in  
27 connection with any claim pending before the United States veterans'  
28 bureau or other governmental agency administering benefits to war  
29 veterans. Where these same documents are required of service personnel  
30 of the armed forces of the United States for determining entitlement to  
31 family allowances and other benefits, they shall be provided without  
32 charge by county clerks and county auditors upon request of the person  
33 in the service or his dependents.

34 **Sec. 509.** RCW 73.36.140 and 1951 c 53 s 14 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

1 A guardian shall not apply any portion of the income or the estate  
2 for the support or maintenance of any person including the ward, the  
3 spouse or the domestic partner, and the minor children of the ward,  
4 except upon petition to and prior order of the court after a hearing.  
5 A signed duplicate or certified copy of said petition shall be  
6 furnished the proper office of the veterans administration and notice  
7 of hearing thereon shall be given said office as provided in the case  
8 of hearing on a guardian's account or other pleading.

9 **Sec. 510.** RCW 73.04.010 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 106 are each  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 No judge, or clerk of court, county clerk, county auditor, or any  
12 other county officer, shall be allowed to charge any honorably  
13 discharged soldier or seaman, or the spouse or domestic partner,  
14 orphan, or legal representative thereof, any fee for administering any  
15 oath, or giving any official certificate for the procuring of any  
16 pension, bounty, or back pay, nor for administering any oath or oaths  
17 and giving the certificate required upon any voucher for collection of  
18 periodical dues from the pension agent, nor any fee for services  
19 rendered in perfecting any voucher.

20 **Sec. 511.** RCW 73.04.115 and 2005 c 216 s 5 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) The department shall issue to the surviving spouse or surviving  
23 domestic partner of any deceased former prisoner of war described in  
24 RCW 73.04.110(~~((+2))~~) (1)(b), one set of regular or special license  
25 plates for use on a personal passenger vehicle registered to that  
26 person.

27 (2) The plates shall be issued without the payment of any license  
28 fees or excise tax on the vehicle. Whenever any person who has been  
29 issued license plates under this section applies to the department for  
30 transfer of the plates to a subsequently acquired motor vehicle, a  
31 transfer fee of five dollars shall be charged in addition to all other  
32 appropriate fees. If the surviving spouse remarries or the surviving  
33 domestic partner registers in a new domestic partnership, he or she  
34 shall return the special plates to the department within fifteen days  
35 and apply for regular license plates.

1 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "special license plates"  
2 does not include any plate from the armed forces license plate  
3 collection established in RCW 46.16.30920.

4 **PART VI - COMMUNITY PROPERTY AND OTHER PROPERTY RIGHTS**

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 601.** A new section is added to chapter 26.60  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Any community property rights of domestic partners established by  
8 this act shall apply from the date of the initial registration of the  
9 domestic partnership, regardless of whether the date of registration  
10 occurred before the effective date of this section.

11 **Sec. 602.** RCW 26.16.010 and Code 1881 s 2408 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 Property and pecuniary rights owned by ~~((the husband))~~ a spouse  
14 before marriage and that acquired by him or her afterwards by gift,  
15 bequest, devise ~~((or))~~, descent, or inheritance, with the rents, issues  
16 and profits thereof, shall not be subject to the debts or contracts of  
17 his ~~((wife))~~ or her spouse, and he or she may manage, lease, sell,  
18 convey, encumber or devise by will such property without ~~((the wife))~~  
19 his or her spouse joining in such management, alienation or  
20 encumbrance, as fully, and to the same ~~((effect))~~ extent or in the same  
21 manner as though he or she were unmarried.

22 **Sec. 603.** RCW 26.16.020 and Code 1881 s 2400 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 ~~((The))~~ Property and pecuniary rights ~~((of every married woman at~~  
25 ~~the time of her marriage))~~ owned by a person in a state registered  
26 domestic partnership before registration of the domestic partnership or  
27 afterwards acquired by gift, bequest, devise, descent, or inheritance,  
28 with the rents, issues and profits thereof, shall not be subject to the  
29 debts or contracts of ~~((her husband))~~ his or her domestic partner, and  
30 he or she may manage, lease, sell, convey, encumber or devise by will  
31 such property without his or her domestic partner joining in such  
32 management, alienation, or encumbrance, as fully, to the same extent  
33 and in the same manner ~~((that her husband can, property belonging to~~

1 ~~him~~) as though he or she were not in a state registered domestic  
2 partnership.

3 **Sec. 604.** RCW 26.16.030 and 1981 c 304 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Property not acquired or owned, as prescribed in RCW 26.16.010 and  
6 26.16.020, acquired after marriage or after registration of a state  
7 registered domestic partnership by either domestic partner or either  
8 husband or wife or both, is community property. Either spouse or  
9 either domestic partner, acting alone, may manage and control community  
10 property, with a like power of disposition as the acting spouse or  
11 domestic partner has over his or her separate property, except:

12 (1) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall devise or bequeath by will more  
13 than one-half of the community property.

14 (2) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall give community property without  
15 the express or implied consent of the other.

16 (3) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall sell, convey, or encumber the  
17 community real property without the other spouse or other domestic  
18 partner joining in the execution of the deed or other instrument by  
19 which the real estate is sold, conveyed, or encumbered, and such deed  
20 or other instrument must be acknowledged by both spouses or both  
21 domestic partners.

22 (4) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall purchase or contract to  
23 purchase community real property without the other spouse or other  
24 domestic partner joining in the transaction of purchase or in the  
25 execution of the contract to purchase.

26 (5) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall create a security interest  
27 other than a purchase money security interest as defined in RCW  
28 62A.9-107 in, or sell, community household goods, furnishings, or  
29 appliances, or a community mobile home unless the other spouse or other  
30 domestic partner joins in executing the security agreement or bill of  
31 sale, if any.

32 (6) Neither (~~spouse~~) person shall acquire, purchase, sell,  
33 convey, or encumber the assets, including real estate, or the good will  
34 of a business where both spouses or both domestic partners participate  
35 in its management without the consent of the other: PROVIDED, That  
36 where only one spouse or one domestic partner participates in such  
37 management the participating spouse or participating domestic partner

1 may, in the ordinary course of such business, acquire, purchase, sell,  
2 convey or encumber the assets, including real estate, or the good will  
3 of the business without the consent of the nonparticipating spouse or  
4 nonparticipating domestic partner.

5 **Sec. 605.** RCW 26.16.050 and 1888 c 27 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 A (~~husband~~) spouse or domestic partner may give, grant, sell or  
8 convey directly to (~~his wife, and a wife may give, grant, sell or~~  
9 ~~convey directly to her husband~~) the other spouse or other domestic  
10 partner his or her community right, title, interest or estate in all or  
11 any portion of their community real property: And every deed made from  
12 (~~husband to wife, or from wife to husband~~) one spouse to the other or  
13 one domestic partner to the other, shall operate to divest the real  
14 estate therein recited from any or every claim or demand as community  
15 property and shall vest the same in the grantee as separate  
16 property(~~{. The}~~). The grantor in all such deeds, or the party  
17 releasing such community interest or estate shall sign, seal, execute  
18 and acknowledge the deed as a single person without the joinder therein  
19 of the married party or party to a state registered domestic  
20 partnership therein named as grantee: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the  
21 conveyances or transfers hereby authorized shall not affect any  
22 existing equity in favor of creditors of the grantor at the time of  
23 such transfer, gift or conveyance. AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any  
24 deeds of gift conveyances or releases of community estate by or between  
25 (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or between domestic partners heretofore  
26 made but in which (~~the husband and wife~~) both spouses or both  
27 domestic partners have not joined as grantors, said deeds(~~{,}~~),  
28 made in good faith and without intent to hinder, delay or defraud  
29 creditors(~~{,}~~), shall be and the same are hereby fully legalized as  
30 valid and binding.

31 **Sec. 606.** RCW 26.16.060 and Code 1881 s 2403 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 A (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or domestic partner may constitute the  
34 other his or her attorney-in-fact to manage, control or dispose of his  
35 or her property with the same power of revocation or substitution as

1 could be exercised were they unmarried persons or were they not in a  
2 state registered domestic partnership.

3 **Sec. 607.** RCW 26.16.070 and 1888 c 27 s 2 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 A (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or domestic partner may make and  
6 execute powers of attorney for the sale, conveyance, transfer or  
7 encumbrance of his or her separate estate both real and personal,  
8 without the other spouse or other domestic partner joining in the  
9 execution thereof. Such power of attorney shall be acknowledged and  
10 certified in the manner provided by law for the conveyance of real  
11 estate. Nor shall anything herein contained be so construed as to  
12 prevent either (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or either domestic partner  
13 from appointing the other his or her attorney-in-fact for the purposes  
14 provided in this section.

15 **Sec. 608.** RCW 26.16.080 and 1888 c 27 s 3 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 Any conveyance, transfer, deed, lease or other encumbrances  
18 executed under and by virtue of such power of attorney shall be  
19 executed, acknowledged and certified in the same manner as if the  
20 person making such power of attorney had been unmarried or not in a  
21 state registered domestic partnership.

22 **Sec. 609.** RCW 26.16.090 and 1888 c 27 s 4 are each amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 A (~~husband~~) spouse or domestic partner may make and execute a  
25 letter of attorney to (~~the wife, or the wife may make and execute a~~  
26 ~~letter of attorney to the husband~~) his or her spouse or domestic  
27 partner authorizing the sale or other disposition of his or her  
28 community interest or estate in the community property and as such  
29 attorney-in-fact to sign the name of such (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or  
30 such domestic partner to any deed, conveyance, mortgage, lease or other  
31 encumbrance or to any instrument necessary to be executed by which the  
32 property conveyed or transferred shall be released from any claim as  
33 community property. And either (~~said husband or said wife~~) spouse or  
34 either domestic partner may make and execute a letter of attorney to  
35 any third person to join with the other in the conveyance of any

1 interest either in separate real estate of either, or in the community  
2 estate held by such ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or such domestic partner  
3 in any real property. And both ((~~husband and wife~~)) spouses or both  
4 domestic partners owning community property may jointly execute a power  
5 of attorney to a third person authorizing the sale, encumbrance or  
6 other disposition of community real property, and so execute the  
7 necessary conveyance or transfer of said real estate.

8 **Sec. 610.** RCW 26.16.095 and 1891 c 151 s 1 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 Whenever any person, married, in a state registered domestic  
11 partnership, or single, having in his or her name the legal title of  
12 record to any real estate, shall sell or dispose of the same to an  
13 actual bona fide purchaser, a deed of such real estate from the person  
14 holding such legal record title to such actual bona fide purchaser  
15 shall be sufficient to convey to, and vest in, such purchaser the full  
16 legal and equitable title to such real estate free and clear of any and  
17 all claims of any and all persons whatsoever, not appearing of record  
18 in the auditor's office of the county in which such real estate is  
19 situated.

20 **Sec. 611.** RCW 26.16.100 and 1891 c 151 s 2 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 A ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or domestic partner having an interest  
23 in real estate, by virtue of the marriage relation or state registered  
24 domestic partnership, the legal title of record to which real estate is  
25 or shall be held by the other, may protect such interest from sale or  
26 disposition by the ((~~husband or wife~~)) other spouse or other domestic  
27 partner, as the case may be, in whose name the legal title is held, by  
28 causing to be filed and recorded in the auditor's office of the county  
29 in which such real estate is situated an instrument in writing setting  
30 forth that the person filing such instrument is the ((~~husband or wife~~))  
31 spouse or domestic partner, as the case may be, of the person holding  
32 the legal title to the real estate in question, describing such real  
33 estate and the claimant's interest therein; and when thus presented for  
34 record such instrument shall be filed and recorded by the auditor of  
35 the county in which such real estate is situated, in the same manner  
36 and with like effect as regards notice to all the world, as deeds of

1 real estate are filed and recorded. And if either (~~husband or wife~~)  
2 spouse or either domestic partner fails to cause such an instrument to  
3 be filed in the auditor's office in the county in which real estate is  
4 situated, the legal title to which is held by the other, within a  
5 period of ninety days from the date when such legal title has been made  
6 a matter of record, any actual bona fide purchaser of such real estate  
7 from the person in whose name the legal title stands of record,  
8 receiving a deed of such real estate from the person thus holding the  
9 legal title, shall be deemed and held to have received the full legal  
10 and equitable title to such real estate free and clear of all claim of  
11 the other spouse or other domestic partner.

12 **Sec. 612.** RCW 26.16.120 and 1998 c 292 s 505 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 Nothing contained in any of the provisions of this chapter or in  
15 any law of this state, shall prevent (~~the husband and wife~~) both  
16 spouses or both domestic partners from jointly entering into any  
17 agreement concerning the status or disposition of the whole or any  
18 portion of the community property, then owned by them or afterwards to  
19 be acquired, to take effect upon the death of either. But such  
20 agreement may be made at any time by (~~the husband and wife~~) both  
21 spouses or both domestic partners by the execution of an instrument in  
22 writing under their hands and seals, and to be witnessed, acknowledged  
23 and certified in the same manner as deeds to real estate are required  
24 to be, under the laws of the state, and the same may at any time  
25 thereafter be altered or amended in the same manner. Such agreement  
26 shall not derogate from the right of creditors; nor be construed to  
27 curtail the powers of the superior court to set aside or cancel such  
28 agreement for fraud or under some other recognized head of equity  
29 jurisdiction, at the suit of either party; nor prevent the application  
30 of laws governing the community property and inheritance rights of  
31 slayers under chapter 11.84 RCW.

32 **Sec. 613.** RCW 26.16.140 and 1972 ex.s. c 108 s 5 are each amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 When (~~a husband and wife~~) spouses or domestic partners are living  
35 separate and apart, their respective earnings and accumulations shall  
36 be the separate property of each. The earnings and accumulations of



1 minor children shall be the separate property of the spouse or domestic  
2 partner who has their custody or, if no custody award has been made,  
3 then the separate property of the spouse or domestic partner with whom  
4 said children are living.

5 **Sec. 614.** RCW 26.16.150 and Code 1881 s 2396 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Every married person or domestic partner shall hereafter have the  
8 same right and liberty to acquire, hold, enjoy and dispose of every  
9 species of property, and to sue and be sued, as if he or she were  
10 unmarried or were not in a state registered domestic partnership.

11 **Sec. 615.** RCW 26.16.180 and Code 1881 s 2401 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 Should either ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or either domestic partner  
14 obtain possession or control of property belonging to the other, either  
15 before or after marriage or before or after entering into a state  
16 registered domestic partnership, the owner of the property may maintain  
17 an action therefor, or for any right growing out of the same, in the  
18 same manner and to the same extent as if they were unmarried or were  
19 not in a state registered domestic partnership.

20 **Sec. 616.** RCW 26.16.190 and 1972 ex.s. c 108 s 6 are each amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 For all injuries committed by a married person or domestic partner,  
23 there shall be no recovery against the separate property of the other  
24 spouse or other domestic partner except in cases where there would be  
25 joint responsibility if the marriage or the state registered domestic  
26 partnership did not exist.

27 **Sec. 617.** RCW 26.16.200 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 s 2 are each  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 Neither ((~~husband or wife~~)) person in a marriage or state  
30 registered domestic partnership is liable for the debts or liabilities  
31 of the other incurred before marriage or state registered domestic  
32 partnership, nor for the separate debts of each other, nor is the rent  
33 or income of the separate property of either liable for the separate  
34 debts of the other: PROVIDED, That the earnings and accumulations of

1 the (~~husband~~) spouse or domestic partner shall be available to the  
2 legal process of creditors for the satisfaction of debts incurred by  
3 (~~him~~) such spouse or domestic partner prior to the marriage(~~, and~~  
4 ~~the earnings and accumulations of the wife shall be available to the~~  
5 ~~legal process of creditors for the satisfaction of debts incurred by~~  
6 ~~her prior to marriage~~) or the state registered domestic partnership.  
7 For the purpose of this section, neither (~~the husband nor the wife~~)  
8 person in the marriage or the state registered domestic partnership  
9 shall be construed to have any interest in the earnings of the other:  
10 PROVIDED FURTHER, That no separate debt, except a child support or  
11 maintenance obligation, may be the basis of a claim against the  
12 earnings and accumulations of either (~~a husband or wife~~) spouse or  
13 either domestic partner unless the same is reduced to judgment within  
14 three years of the marriage or the state registered domestic  
15 partnership of the parties. The obligation of a parent or stepparent  
16 to support a child may be collected out of the parent's or stepparent's  
17 separate property, the parent's or stepparent's earnings and  
18 accumulations, and the parent's or stepparent's share of community  
19 personal and real property. Funds in a community bank account which  
20 can be identified as the earnings of the nonobligated spouse or  
21 nonobligated domestic partner are exempt from satisfaction of the child  
22 support obligation of the debtor spouse or debtor domestic partner.

23 **Sec. 618.** RCW 26.16.205 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 2 s 13 are each  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 The expenses of the family and the education of the children,  
26 including stepchildren, are chargeable upon the property of both  
27 (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or both domestic partners, or either of  
28 them, and they may be sued jointly or separately. When a petition for  
29 dissolution of marriage or state registered domestic partnership or a  
30 petition for legal separation is filed, the court may, upon motion of  
31 the stepparent, terminate the obligation to support the stepchildren.  
32 The obligation to support stepchildren shall cease upon the entry of a  
33 decree of dissolution, decree of legal separation, or death.

34 **Sec. 619.** RCW 26.16.210 and Code 1881 s 2397 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 In every case, where any question arises as to the good faith of

1 any transaction between (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or between  
2 domestic partners, whether a transaction between them directly or by  
3 intervention of third person or persons, the burden of proof shall be  
4 upon the party asserting the good faith.

5 **Sec. 620.** RCW 26.16.220 and 1988 c 34 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in RCW  
8 26.16.220 through 26.16.250 "quasi-community property" means all  
9 personal property wherever situated and all real property described in  
10 subsection (2) of this section that is not community property and that  
11 was heretofore or hereafter acquired:

12 (a) By the decedent while domiciled elsewhere and that would have  
13 been the community property of the decedent and of the decedent's  
14 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner had the decedent been  
15 domiciled in this state at the time of its acquisition; or

16 (b) In derivation or in exchange for real or personal property,  
17 wherever situated, that would have been the community property of the  
18 decedent and (~~the~~) his or her surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
19 partner if the decedent had been domiciled in this state at the time  
20 the original property was acquired.

21 (2) For purposes of this section, real property includes:

22 (a) Real property situated in this state;

23 (b) Real property situated outside this state if the law of the  
24 state where the real property is located provides that the law of the  
25 decedent's domicile at death shall govern the rights of the decedent's  
26 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner to a share of such  
27 property; and

28 (c) Leasehold interests in real property described in (a) or (b) of  
29 this subsection.

30 (3) For purposes of this section, all legal presumptions and  
31 principles applicable to the proper characterization of property as  
32 community property under the laws and decisions of this state shall  
33 apply in determining whether property would have been the community  
34 property of the decedent and (~~the~~) his or her surviving spouse or  
35 surviving domestic partner under the provisions of subsection (1) of  
36 this section.

1       **Sec. 621.** RCW 26.16.230 and 1988 c 34 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       Upon the death of any person domiciled in this state, one-half of  
4 any quasi-community property shall belong to the surviving spouse or  
5 surviving domestic partner and the other one-half of such property  
6 shall be subject to disposition at death by the decedent, and in the  
7 absence thereof, shall descend in the manner provided for community  
8 property under chapter 11.04 RCW.

9       **Sec. 622.** RCW 26.16.240 and 1988 c 34 s 3 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       (1) If a decedent domiciled in this state on the date of his or her  
12 death made a lifetime transfer of a property interest that is quasi-  
13 community property to a person other than the surviving spouse or  
14 surviving domestic partner within three years of death, then within the  
15 time for filing claims against the estate as provided by RCW 11.40.010,  
16 the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner may require the  
17 transferee to restore to the decedent's estate one-half of such  
18 property interest, if the transferee retains the property interest,  
19 and, if not, one-half of its proceeds, or, if none, one-half of its  
20 value at the time of transfer, if:

21       (a) The decedent retained, at the time of death, the possession or  
22 enjoyment of or the right to income from the property interest;

23       (b) The decedent retained, at the time of death, a power, either  
24 alone or in conjunction with any other person, to revoke or to consume,  
25 invade or dispose of the property interest for the decedent's own  
26 benefit; or

27       (c) The decedent held the property interest at the time of death  
28 with another with the right of survivorship.

29       (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, no such  
30 property interest, proceeds, or value may be required to be restored to  
31 the decedent's estate if:

32       (a) Such property interest was transferred for adequate  
33 consideration;

34       (b) Such property interest was transferred with the consent of the  
35 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner; or

36       (c) The transferee purchased such property interest in property

1 from the decedent while believing in good faith that the property or  
2 property interest was the separate property of the decedent and did not  
3 constitute quasi-community property.

4 (3) All property interests, proceeds, or value restored to the  
5 decedent's estate under this section shall belong to the surviving  
6 spouse or surviving domestic partner pursuant to RCW 26.16.230 as  
7 though the transfer had never been made.

8 (4) The surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner may waive  
9 any right granted hereunder by written instrument filed in the probate  
10 proceedings. If the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner  
11 acts as personal representative of the decedent's estate and causes the  
12 estate to be closed before the time for exercising any right granted by  
13 this section expires, such closure shall act as a waiver by the  
14 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of any and all rights  
15 granted by this section.

16 **Sec. 623.** RCW 26.16.250 and 1988 c 34 s 4 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 The characterization of property as quasi-community property under  
19 this chapter shall be effective solely for the purpose of determining  
20 the disposition of such property at the time of a death, and such  
21 characterization shall not affect the rights of the decedent's  
22 creditors. For all other purposes property characterized as quasi-  
23 community property under this chapter shall be characterized without  
24 regard to the provisions of this chapter. (~~A husband and wife~~) Both  
25 spouses or both domestic partners may waive, modify, or relinquish any  
26 quasi-community property right granted or created by this chapter by  
27 signed written agreement, wherever executed, before or after June 11,  
28 1986, including without limitation, community property agreements,  
29 prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, or agreements as to status of  
30 property.

31 **Sec. 624.** RCW 11.84.030 and 1965 c 145 s 11.84.030 are each  
32 amended to read as follows:

33 The slayer shall be deemed to have predeceased the decedent as to  
34 property which would have passed from the decedent or his estate to the  
35 slayer under the statutes of descent and distribution or have been

1 acquired by statutory right as surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
2 partner or under any agreement made with the decedent under the  
3 provisions of RCW 26.16.120 as it now exists or is hereafter amended.

4 **Sec. 625.** RCW 64.28.010 and 1993 c 19 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Whereas joint tenancy with right of survivorship permits property  
7 to pass to the survivor without the cost or delay of probate  
8 proceedings, there shall be a form of co-ownership of property, real  
9 and personal, known as joint tenancy. A joint tenancy shall have the  
10 incidents of survivorship and severability as at common law, including  
11 the unilateral right of each tenant to sever the joint tenancy. Joint  
12 tenancy shall be created only by written instrument, which instrument  
13 shall expressly declare the interest created to be a joint tenancy. It  
14 may be created by a single agreement, transfer, deed, will, or other  
15 instrument of conveyance, or by agreement, transfer, deed or other  
16 instrument from a sole owner to himself or herself and others, or from  
17 tenants in common or joint tenants to themselves or some of them, or to  
18 themselves or any of them and others, or from ((~~husband and wife~~)) both  
19 spouses or both domestic partners, when holding title as community  
20 property, or otherwise, to themselves or to themselves and others, or  
21 to one of them and to another or others, or when granted or devised to  
22 executors or trustees as joint tenants: PROVIDED, That such transfer  
23 shall not derogate from the rights of creditors.

24 **Sec. 626.** RCW 64.28.020 and 1988 c 29 s 10 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) Every interest created in favor of two or more persons in their  
27 own right is an interest in common, unless acquired by them in  
28 partnership, for partnership purposes, or unless declared in its  
29 creation to be a joint tenancy, as provided in RCW 64.28.010, or unless  
30 acquired by executors or trustees.

31 (2) Interests in common held in the names of ((~~a husband and wife~~))  
32 both spouses or both domestic partners, whether or not in conjunction  
33 with others, are presumed to be their community property.

34 (3) Subsection (2) of this section applies as of June 9, 1988, to  
35 all existing or subsequently created interests in common.

1       **Sec. 627.** RCW 64.28.030 and 1961 c 2 s 3 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The provisions of this chapter shall not restrict the creation of  
4 a joint tenancy in a bank deposit or in other choses in action as  
5 heretofore or hereafter provided by law, nor restrict the power of  
6 (~~husband and wife~~) both spouses or both domestic partners to make  
7 agreements as provided in RCW 26.16.120.

8       **Sec. 628.** RCW 64.28.040 and 1993 c 19 s 2 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10       (1) Joint tenancy interests held in the names of (~~a husband and~~  
11 ~~wife~~) both spouses or both domestic partners, whether or not in  
12 conjunction with others, are presumed to be their community property,  
13 the same as other property held in the name of both (~~husband and~~  
14 ~~wife~~) spouses or both domestic partners. Any such interest passes to  
15 the survivor of the (~~husband and wife~~) spouse or survivor of the  
16 domestic partner as provided for property held in joint tenancy, but in  
17 all other respects the interest is treated as community property.

18       (2) Either (~~husband or wife~~) person in a marriage or either  
19 person in a state registered domestic partnership, or both, may sever  
20 a joint tenancy. When a joint tenancy is severed, the property, or  
21 proceeds of the property, shall be presumed to be their community  
22 property, whether it is held in the name of (~~the husband or wife~~)  
23 either spouse, or both, or in the name of either domestic partner, or  
24 both.

25       (3) This section applies as of January 1, 1985, to all existing or  
26 subsequently created joint tenancies.

27       **Sec. 629.** RCW 9.46.231 and 1997 c 128 s 1 are each amended to read  
28 as follows:

29       (1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no  
30 property right exists in them:

31       (a) All gambling devices as defined in this chapter;

32       (b) All furnishings, fixtures, equipment, and stock, including  
33 without limitation furnishings and fixtures adaptable to nongambling  
34 uses and equipment and stock for printing, recording, computing,  
35 transporting, or safekeeping, used in connection with professional  
36 gambling or maintaining a gambling premises;

1 (c) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, that  
2 are used, or intended for use, in any manner to facilitate the sale,  
3 delivery, receipt, or operation of any gambling device, or the  
4 promotion or operation of a professional gambling activity, except  
5 that:

6 (i) A conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the  
7 transaction of business as a common carrier is not subject to  
8 forfeiture under this section unless it appears that the owner or other  
9 person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a  
10 violation of this chapter;

11 (ii) A conveyance is not subject to forfeiture under this section  
12 by reason of any act or omission established by the owner thereof to  
13 have been committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or  
14 consent;

15 (iii) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a bona fide  
16 security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if  
17 the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or  
18 omission; and

19 (iv) If the owner of a conveyance has been arrested under this  
20 chapter the conveyance in which the person is arrested may not be  
21 subject to forfeiture unless it is seized or process is issued for its  
22 seizure within ten days of the owner's arrest;

23 (d) All books, records, and research products and materials,  
24 including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and electronic data that are  
25 used, or intended for use, in violation of this chapter;

26 (e) All moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other  
27 tangible or intangible property of value at stake or displayed in or in  
28 connection with professional gambling activity or furnished or intended  
29 to be furnished by any person to facilitate the promotion or operation  
30 of a professional gambling activity;

31 (f) All tangible or intangible personal property, proceeds, or  
32 assets acquired in whole or in part with proceeds traceable to  
33 professional gambling activity and all moneys, negotiable instruments,  
34 and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation  
35 of this chapter. A forfeiture of money, negotiable instruments,  
36 securities, or other tangible or intangible property encumbered by a  
37 bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured  
38 party if, at the time the security interest was created, the secured



1 party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.  
2 Personal property may not be forfeited under this subsection (1)(f), to  
3 the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or  
4 omission that that owner establishes was committed or omitted without  
5 the owner's knowledge or consent; and

6 (g) All real property, including any right, title, and interest in  
7 the whole of any lot or tract of land, and any appurtenances or  
8 improvements that:

9 (i) Have been used with the knowledge of the owner for the  
10 manufacturing, processing, delivery, importing, or exporting of any  
11 illegal gambling equipment, or operation of a professional gambling  
12 activity that would constitute a felony violation of this chapter; or

13 (ii) Have been acquired in whole or in part with proceeds traceable  
14 to a professional gambling activity, if the activity is not less than  
15 a class C felony.

16 Real property forfeited under this chapter that is encumbered by a  
17 bona fide security interest remains subject to the interest of the  
18 secured party if the secured party, at the time the security interest  
19 was created, neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or  
20 omission. Property may not be forfeited under this subsection, to the  
21 extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission  
22 committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent.

23 (2)(a) A law enforcement officer of this state may seize real or  
24 personal property subject to forfeiture under this chapter upon process  
25 issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property.  
26 Seizure of real property includes the filing of a lis pendens by the  
27 seizing agency. Real property seized under this section may not be  
28 transferred or otherwise conveyed until ninety days after seizure or  
29 until a judgment of forfeiture is entered, whichever is later, but real  
30 property seized under this section may be transferred or conveyed to  
31 any person or entity who acquires title by foreclosure or deed in lieu  
32 of foreclosure of a bona fide security interest.

33 (b) Seizure of personal property without process may be made if:

34 (i) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search  
35 warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;

36 (ii) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a  
37 prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or  
38 forfeiture proceeding based upon this chapter;

1 (iii) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that  
2 the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety;  
3 or

4 (iv) The law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that  
5 the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this  
6 chapter.

7 (3) In the event of seizure under subsection (2) of this section,  
8 proceedings for forfeiture are deemed commenced by the seizure. The  
9 law enforcement agency under whose authority the seizure was made shall  
10 cause notice to be served within fifteen days following the seizure on  
11 the owner of the property seized and the person in charge thereof and  
12 any person having any known right or interest therein, including any  
13 community property interest, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of  
14 the seized property. Service of notice of seizure of real property  
15 must be made according to the rules of civil procedure. However, the  
16 state may not obtain a default judgment with respect to real property  
17 against a party who is served by substituted service absent an  
18 affidavit stating that a good faith effort has been made to ascertain  
19 if the defaulted party is incarcerated within the state, and that there  
20 is no present basis to believe that the party is incarcerated within  
21 the state. Notice of seizure in the case of property subject to a  
22 security interest that has been perfected by filing a financing  
23 statement in accordance with chapter ((62A.9)) 62A.9A RCW, or a  
24 certificate of title, must be made by service upon the secured party or  
25 the secured party's assignee at the address shown on the financing  
26 statement or the certificate of title. The notice of seizure in other  
27 cases may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule  
28 including but not limited to service by certified mail with return  
29 receipt requested. Service by mail is deemed complete upon mailing  
30 within the fifteen-day period following the seizure.

31 (4) If no person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
32 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
33 items specified in subsection (1) of this section within forty-five  
34 days of the seizure in the case of personal property and ninety days in  
35 the case of real property, the item seized is deemed forfeited. The  
36 community property interest in real property of a person whose spouse  
37 or domestic partner committed a violation giving rise to seizure of the

1 real property may not be forfeited if the person did not participate in  
2 the violation.

3 (5) If any person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
4 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
5 items specified in subsection (1) of this section within forty-five  
6 days of the seizure in the case of personal property and ninety days in  
7 the case of real property, the person or persons must be afforded a  
8 reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The  
9 hearing must be before the chief law enforcement officer of the seizing  
10 agency or the chief law enforcement officer's designee, except if the  
11 seizing agency is a state agency as defined in RCW 34.12.020(4), the  
12 hearing must be before the chief law enforcement officer of the seizing  
13 agency or an administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12  
14 RCW, except that any person asserting a claim or right may remove the  
15 matter to a court of competent jurisdiction. Removal of any matter  
16 involving personal property may only be accomplished according to the  
17 rules of civil procedure. The person seeking removal of the matter  
18 must serve process against the state, county, political subdivision, or  
19 municipality that operates the seizing agency, and any other party of  
20 interest, in accordance with RCW 4.28.080 or 4.92.020, within forty-  
21 five days after the person seeking removal has notified the seizing law  
22 enforcement agency of the person's claim of ownership or right to  
23 possession. The court to which the matter is to be removed must be the  
24 district court if the aggregate value of personal property is within  
25 the jurisdictional limit set forth in RCW 3.66.020. A hearing before  
26 the seizing agency and any appeal therefrom must be under Title 34 RCW.  
27 In a court hearing between two or more claimants to the article or  
28 articles involved, the prevailing party is entitled to a judgment for  
29 costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. In cases involving personal  
30 property, the burden of producing evidence is upon the person claiming  
31 to be the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right  
32 to possession of the property. In cases involving property seized  
33 under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the only issues to be  
34 determined by the tribunal are whether the item seized is a gambling  
35 device, and whether the device is an antique device as defined by RCW  
36 9.46.235. In cases involving real property, the burden of producing  
37 evidence is upon the law enforcement agency. The burden of proof that  
38 the seized real property is subject to forfeiture is upon the law

1 enforcement agency. The seizing law enforcement agency shall promptly  
2 return the article or articles to the claimant upon a final  
3 determination by the administrative law judge or court that the  
4 claimant is the present lawful owner or is lawfully entitled to  
5 possession thereof of items specified in subsection (1) of this  
6 section.

7 (6) If property is forfeited under this chapter the seizing law  
8 enforcement agency may:

9 (a) Retain it for official use or upon application by any law  
10 enforcement agency of this state release the property to the agency for  
11 training or use in enforcing this chapter;

12 (b) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and  
13 which is not harmful to the public; or

14 (c) Destroy any articles that may not be lawfully possessed within  
15 the state of Washington, or that have a fair market value of less than  
16 one hundred dollars.

17 (7)(a) If property is forfeited, the seizing agency shall keep a  
18 record indicating the identity of the prior owner, if known, a  
19 description of the property, the disposition of the property, the value  
20 of the property at the time of seizure, and the amount of proceeds  
21 realized from disposition of the property. The net proceeds of  
22 forfeited property is the value of the forfeitable interest in the  
23 property after deducting the cost of satisfying any bona fide security  
24 interest to which the property is subject at the time of seizure, and  
25 in the case of sold property, after deducting the cost of sale,  
26 including reasonable fees or commissions paid to independent selling  
27 agents.

28 (b) Each seizing agency shall retain records of forfeited property  
29 for at least seven years.

30 (8) The seizing law enforcement agency shall retain forfeited  
31 property and net proceeds exclusively for the expansion and improvement  
32 of gambling-related law enforcement activity. Money retained under  
33 this section may not be used to supplant preexisting funding sources.

34 (9) Gambling devices that are possessed, transferred, sold, or  
35 offered for sale in violation of this chapter are contraband and must  
36 be seized and summarily forfeited to the state. Gambling equipment  
37 that is seized or comes into the possession of a law enforcement

1 agency, the owners of which are unknown, are contraband and must be  
2 summarily forfeited to the state.

3 (10) Upon the entry of an order of forfeiture of real property, the  
4 court shall forward a copy of the order to the assessor of the county  
5 in which the property is located. The superior court shall enter  
6 orders for the forfeiture of real property, subject to court rules.  
7 The seizing agency shall file such an order in the county auditor's  
8 records in the county in which the real property is located.

9 (11)(a) A landlord may assert a claim against proceeds from the  
10 sale of assets seized and forfeited under subsection (6)(b) of this  
11 section, only if:

12 (i) A law enforcement officer, while acting in his or her official  
13 capacity, directly caused damage to the complaining landlord's property  
14 while executing a search of a tenant's residence; and

15 (ii) The landlord has applied any funds remaining in the tenant's  
16 deposit, to which the landlord has a right under chapter 59.18 RCW, to  
17 cover the damage directly caused by a law enforcement officer before  
18 asserting a claim under this section.

19 (A) Only if the funds applied under (a)(ii) of this subsection are  
20 insufficient to satisfy the damage directly caused by a law enforcement  
21 officer, may the landlord seek compensation for the damage by filing a  
22 claim against the governmental entity under whose authority the law  
23 enforcement agency operates within thirty days after the search; and

24 (B) Only if the governmental entity denies or fails to respond to  
25 the landlord's claim within sixty days of the date of filing, may the  
26 landlord collect damages under this subsection by filing within thirty  
27 days of denial or the expiration of the sixty-day period, whichever  
28 occurs first, a claim with the seizing law enforcement agency. The  
29 seizing law enforcement agency shall notify the landlord of the status  
30 of the claim by the end of the thirty-day period. This section does  
31 not require the claim to be paid by the end of the sixty-day or thirty-  
32 day period.

33 (b) For any claim filed under (a)(ii) of this subsection, the law  
34 enforcement agency shall pay the claim unless the agency provides  
35 substantial proof that the landlord either:

36 (i) Knew or consented to actions of the tenant in violation of this  
37 chapter; or

1 (ii) Failed to respond to a notification of the illegal activity,  
2 provided by a law enforcement agency within seven days of receipt of  
3 notification of the illegal activity.

4 (12) The landlord's claim for damages under subsection (11) of this  
5 section may not include a claim for loss of business and is limited to:

6 (a) Damage to tangible property and clean-up costs;

7 (b) The lesser of the cost of repair or fair market value of the  
8 damage directly caused by a law enforcement officer;

9 (c) The proceeds from the sale of the specific tenant's property  
10 seized and forfeited under subsection (6)(b) of this section; and

11 (d) The proceeds available after the seizing law enforcement agency  
12 satisfies any bona fide security interest in the tenant's property and  
13 costs related to sale of the tenant's property as provided by  
14 subsection (7)(a) of this section.

15 (13) Subsections (11) and (12) of this section do not limit any  
16 other rights a landlord may have against a tenant to collect for  
17 damages. However, if a law enforcement agency satisfies a landlord's  
18 claim under subsection (11) of this section, the rights the landlord  
19 has against the tenant for damages directly caused by a law enforcement  
20 officer under the terms of the landlord and tenant's contract are  
21 subrogated to the law enforcement agency.

22 (14) Liability is not imposed by this section upon any authorized  
23 state, county, or municipal officer, including a commission special  
24 agent, in the lawful performance of his or her duties.

25 **Sec. 630.** RCW 9A.83.030 and 2001 c 168 s 2 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (1) Proceeds traceable to or derived from specified unlawful  
28 activity or a violation of RCW 9A.83.020 are subject to seizure and  
29 forfeiture. The attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may  
30 file a civil action for the forfeiture of proceeds. Unless otherwise  
31 provided for under this section, no property rights exist in these  
32 proceeds. All right, title, and interest in the proceeds shall vest in  
33 the governmental entity of which the seizing law enforcement agency is  
34 a part upon commission of the act or omission giving rise to forfeiture  
35 under this section.

36 (2) Real or personal property subject to forfeiture under this  
37 chapter may be seized by any law enforcement officer of this state upon

1 process issued by a superior court that has jurisdiction over the  
2 property. Any agency seizing real property shall file a lis pendens  
3 concerning the property. Real property seized under this section shall  
4 not be transferred or otherwise conveyed until ninety days after  
5 seizure or until a judgment of forfeiture is entered, whichever is  
6 later. Real property seized under this section may be transferred or  
7 conveyed to any person or entity who acquires title by foreclosure or  
8 deed in lieu of foreclosure of a security interest. Seizure of  
9 personal property without process may be made if:

10 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search  
11 warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant  
12 issued pursuant to RCW 69.50.502; or

13 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior  
14 judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture  
15 proceeding based upon this chapter.

16 (3) A seizure under subsection (2) of this section commences  
17 proceedings for forfeiture. The law enforcement agency under whose  
18 authority the seizure was made shall cause notice of the seizure and  
19 intended forfeiture of the seized proceeds to be served within fifteen  
20 days after the seizure on the owner of the property seized and the  
21 person in charge thereof and any person who has a known right or  
22 interest therein, including a community property interest. Service of  
23 notice of seizure of real property shall be made according to the rules  
24 of civil procedure. However, the state may not obtain a default  
25 judgment with respect to real property against a party who is served by  
26 substituted service absent an affidavit stating that a good faith  
27 effort has been made to ascertain if the defaulted party is  
28 incarcerated within the state, and that there is no present basis to  
29 believe that the party is incarcerated within the state. The notice of  
30 seizure in other cases may be served by any method authorized by law or  
31 court rule including but not limited to service by certified mail with  
32 return receipt requested. Service by mail is complete upon mailing  
33 within the fifteen-day period after the seizure.

34 (4) If no person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
35 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
36 the property within forty-five days of the seizure in the case of  
37 personal property and ninety days in the case of real property, the  
38 property seized shall be deemed forfeited. The community property

1 interest in real property of a person whose spouse or domestic partner  
2 committed a violation giving rise to seizure of the real property may  
3 not be forfeited if the person did not participate in the violation.

4 (5) If a person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
5 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
6 property within forty-five days of the seizure in the case of personal  
7 property and ninety days in the case of real property, the person or  
8 persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to  
9 the claim or right. The provisions of RCW 69.50.505(~~(+e+)~~) (5) shall  
10 apply to any such hearing. The seizing law enforcement agency shall  
11 promptly return property to the claimant upon the direction of the  
12 administrative law judge or court.

13 (6) Disposition of forfeited property shall be made in the manner  
14 provided for in RCW 69.50.505 (~~((h) through (j) and (n))~~) (8) through  
15 (10) and (14).

16 **Sec. 631.** RCW 69.50.505 and 2003 c 53 s 348 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no  
19 property right exists in them:

20 (a) All controlled substances which have been manufactured,  
21 distributed, dispensed, acquired, or possessed in violation of this  
22 chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW, and all hazardous chemicals, as  
23 defined in RCW 64.44.010, used or intended to be used in the  
24 manufacture of controlled substances;

25 (b) All raw materials, products, and equipment of any kind which  
26 are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing, compounding,  
27 processing, delivering, importing, or exporting any controlled  
28 substance in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW;

29 (c) All property which is used, or intended for use, as a container  
30 for property described in (a) or (b) of this subsection;

31 (d) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels,  
32 which are used, or intended for use, in any manner to facilitate the  
33 sale, delivery, or receipt of property described in (a) or (b) of this  
34 subsection, except that:

35 (i) No conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the  
36 transaction of business as a common carrier is subject to forfeiture



1 under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in  
2 charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation  
3 of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW;

4 (ii) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under this section by  
5 reason of any act or omission established by the owner thereof to have  
6 been committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent;

7 (iii) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under this section if  
8 used in the receipt of only an amount of marijuana for which possession  
9 constitutes a misdemeanor under RCW 69.50.4014;

10 (iv) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a bona fide  
11 security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if  
12 the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or  
13 omission; and

14 (v) When the owner of a conveyance has been arrested under this  
15 chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW the conveyance in which the  
16 person is arrested may not be subject to forfeiture unless it is seized  
17 or process is issued for its seizure within ten days of the owner's  
18 arrest;

19 (e) All books, records, and research products and materials,  
20 including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data which are used, or  
21 intended for use, in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or  
22 69.52 RCW;

23 (f) All drug paraphernalia;

24 (g) All moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other  
25 tangible or intangible property of value furnished or intended to be  
26 furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance in  
27 violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW, all tangible  
28 or intangible personal property, proceeds, or assets acquired in whole  
29 or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of  
30 exchanges in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW,  
31 and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended  
32 to be used to facilitate any violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41  
33 or 69.52 RCW. A forfeiture of money, negotiable instruments,  
34 securities, or other tangible or intangible property encumbered by a  
35 bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured  
36 party if, at the time the security interest was created, the secured  
37 party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.  
38 No personal property may be forfeited under this subsection (1)(g), to

1 the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or  
2 omission which that owner establishes was committed or omitted without  
3 the owner's knowledge or consent; and

4 (h) All real property, including any right, title, and interest in  
5 the whole of any lot or tract of land, and any appurtenances or  
6 improvements which are being used with the knowledge of the owner for  
7 the manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivery, importing, or  
8 exporting of any controlled substance, or which have been acquired in  
9 whole or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of  
10 exchanges in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW,  
11 if such activity is not less than a class C felony and a substantial  
12 nexus exists between the commercial production or sale of the  
13 controlled substance and the real property. However:

14 (i) No property may be forfeited pursuant to this subsection  
15 (1)(h), to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act  
16 or omission committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or  
17 consent;

18 (ii) The bona fide gift of a controlled substance, legend drug, or  
19 imitation controlled substance shall not result in the forfeiture of  
20 real property;

21 (iii) The possession of marijuana shall not result in the  
22 forfeiture of real property unless the marijuana is possessed for  
23 commercial purposes, the amount possessed is five or more plants or one  
24 pound or more of marijuana, and a substantial nexus exists between the  
25 possession of marijuana and the real property. In such a case, the  
26 intent of the offender shall be determined by the preponderance of the  
27 evidence, including the offender's prior criminal history, the amount  
28 of marijuana possessed by the offender, the sophistication of the  
29 activity or equipment used by the offender, and other evidence which  
30 demonstrates the offender's intent to engage in commercial activity;

31 (iv) The unlawful sale of marijuana or a legend drug shall not  
32 result in the forfeiture of real property unless the sale was forty  
33 grams or more in the case of marijuana or one hundred dollars or more  
34 in the case of a legend drug, and a substantial nexus exists between  
35 the unlawful sale and the real property; and

36 (v) A forfeiture of real property encumbered by a bona fide  
37 security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if

1 the secured party, at the time the security interest was created,  
2 neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.

3 (2) Real or personal property subject to forfeiture under this  
4 chapter may be seized by any board inspector or law enforcement officer  
5 of this state upon process issued by any superior court having  
6 jurisdiction over the property. Seizure of real property shall include  
7 the filing of a lis pendens by the seizing agency. Real property  
8 seized under this section shall not be transferred or otherwise  
9 conveyed until ninety days after seizure or until a judgment of  
10 forfeiture is entered, whichever is later: PROVIDED, That real  
11 property seized under this section may be transferred or conveyed to  
12 any person or entity who acquires title by foreclosure or deed in lieu  
13 of foreclosure of a security interest. Seizure of personal property  
14 without process may be made if:

15 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search  
16 warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;

17 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior  
18 judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture  
19 proceeding based upon this chapter;

20 (c) A board inspector or law enforcement officer has probable cause  
21 to believe that the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to  
22 health or safety; or

23 (d) The board inspector or law enforcement officer has probable  
24 cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used  
25 in violation of this chapter.

26 (3) In the event of seizure pursuant to subsection (2) of this  
27 section, proceedings for forfeiture shall be deemed commenced by the  
28 seizure. The law enforcement agency under whose authority the seizure  
29 was made shall cause notice to be served within fifteen days following  
30 the seizure on the owner of the property seized and the person in  
31 charge thereof and any person having any known right or interest  
32 therein, including any community property interest, of the seizure and  
33 intended forfeiture of the seized property. Service of notice of  
34 seizure of real property shall be made according to the rules of civil  
35 procedure. However, the state may not obtain a default judgment with  
36 respect to real property against a party who is served by substituted  
37 service absent an affidavit stating that a good faith effort has been  
38 made to ascertain if the defaulted party is incarcerated within the

1 state, and that there is no present basis to believe that the party is  
2 incarcerated within the state. Notice of seizure in the case of  
3 property subject to a security interest that has been perfected by  
4 filing a financing statement in accordance with chapter 62A.9A RCW, or  
5 a certificate of title, shall be made by service upon the secured party  
6 or the secured party's assignee at the address shown on the financing  
7 statement or the certificate of title. The notice of seizure in other  
8 cases may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule  
9 including but not limited to service by certified mail with return  
10 receipt requested. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon  
11 mailing within the fifteen day period following the seizure.

12 (4) If no person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
13 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
14 items specified in subsection (1)(d), (g), or (h) of this section  
15 within forty-five days of the seizure in the case of personal property  
16 and ninety days in the case of real property, the item seized shall be  
17 deemed forfeited. The community property interest in real property of  
18 a person whose spouse or domestic partner committed a violation giving  
19 rise to seizure of the real property may not be forfeited if the person  
20 did not participate in the violation.

21 (5) If any person notifies the seizing law enforcement agency in  
22 writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of  
23 items specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h)  
24 of this section within forty-five days of the seizure in the case of  
25 personal property and ninety days in the case of real property, the  
26 person or persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be  
27 heard as to the claim or right. The hearing shall be before the chief  
28 law enforcement officer of the seizing agency or the chief law  
29 enforcement officer's designee, except where the seizing agency is a  
30 state agency as defined in RCW 34.12.020(4), the hearing shall be  
31 before the chief law enforcement officer of the seizing agency or an  
32 administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12 RCW, except that  
33 any person asserting a claim or right may remove the matter to a court  
34 of competent jurisdiction. Removal of any matter involving personal  
35 property may only be accomplished according to the rules of civil  
36 procedure. The person seeking removal of the matter must serve process  
37 against the state, county, political subdivision, or municipality that  
38 operates the seizing agency, and any other party of interest, in

1 accordance with RCW 4.28.080 or 4.92.020, within forty-five days after  
2 the person seeking removal has notified the seizing law enforcement  
3 agency of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession. The  
4 court to which the matter is to be removed shall be the district court  
5 when the aggregate value of personal property is within the  
6 jurisdictional limit set forth in RCW 3.66.020. A hearing before the  
7 seizing agency and any appeal therefrom shall be under Title 34 RCW.  
8 In all cases, the burden of proof is upon the law enforcement agency to  
9 establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the property is  
10 subject to forfeiture.

11 The seizing law enforcement agency shall promptly return the  
12 article or articles to the claimant upon a determination by the  
13 administrative law judge or court that the claimant is the present  
14 lawful owner or is lawfully entitled to possession thereof of items  
15 specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h) of this  
16 section.

17 (6) In any proceeding to forfeit property under this title, where  
18 the claimant substantially prevails, the claimant is entitled to  
19 reasonable attorneys' fees reasonably incurred by the claimant. In  
20 addition, in a court hearing between two or more claimants to the  
21 article or articles involved, the prevailing party is entitled to a  
22 judgment for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

23 (7) When property is forfeited under this chapter the board or  
24 seizing law enforcement agency may:

25 (a) Retain it for official use or upon application by any law  
26 enforcement agency of this state release such property to such agency  
27 for the exclusive use of enforcing the provisions of this chapter;

28 (b) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and  
29 which is not harmful to the public;

30 (c) Request the appropriate sheriff or director of public safety to  
31 take custody of the property and remove it for disposition in  
32 accordance with law; or

33 (d) Forward it to the drug enforcement administration for  
34 disposition.

35 (8)(a) When property is forfeited, the seizing agency shall keep a  
36 record indicating the identity of the prior owner, if known, a  
37 description of the property, the disposition of the property, the value

1 of the property at the time of seizure, and the amount of proceeds  
2 realized from disposition of the property.

3 (b) Each seizing agency shall retain records of forfeited property  
4 for at least seven years.

5 (c) Each seizing agency shall file a report including a copy of the  
6 records of forfeited property with the state treasurer each calendar  
7 quarter.

8 (d) The quarterly report need not include a record of forfeited  
9 property that is still being held for use as evidence during the  
10 investigation or prosecution of a case or during the appeal from a  
11 conviction.

12 (9)(a) By January 31st of each year, each seizing agency shall  
13 remit to the state treasurer an amount equal to ten percent of the net  
14 proceeds of any property forfeited during the preceding calendar year.  
15 Money remitted shall be deposited in the violence reduction and drug  
16 enforcement account under RCW 69.50.520.

17 (b) The net proceeds of forfeited property is the value of the  
18 forfeitable interest in the property after deducting the cost of  
19 satisfying any bona fide security interest to which the property is  
20 subject at the time of seizure; and in the case of sold property, after  
21 deducting the cost of sale, including reasonable fees or commissions  
22 paid to independent selling agents, and the cost of any valid  
23 landlord's claim for damages under subsection (15) of this section.

24 (c) The value of sold forfeited property is the sale price. The  
25 value of retained forfeited property is the fair market value of the  
26 property at the time of seizure, determined when possible by reference  
27 to an applicable commonly used index, such as the index used by the  
28 department of licensing for valuation of motor vehicles. A seizing  
29 agency may use, but need not use, an independent qualified appraiser to  
30 determine the value of retained property. If an appraiser is used, the  
31 value of the property appraised is net of the cost of the appraisal.  
32 The value of destroyed property and retained firearms or illegal  
33 property is zero.

34 (10) Forfeited property and net proceeds not required to be paid to  
35 the state treasurer shall be retained by the seizing law enforcement  
36 agency exclusively for the expansion and improvement of controlled  
37 substances related law enforcement activity. Money retained under this  
38 section may not be used to supplant preexisting funding sources.

1 (11) Controlled substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, IV, and  
2 V that are possessed, transferred, sold, or offered for sale in  
3 violation of this chapter are contraband and shall be seized and  
4 summarily forfeited to the state. Controlled substances listed in  
5 Schedule I, II, III, IV, and V, which are seized or come into the  
6 possession of the board, the owners of which are unknown, are  
7 contraband and shall be summarily forfeited to the board.

8 (12) Species of plants from which controlled substances in  
9 Schedules I and II may be derived which have been planted or cultivated  
10 in violation of this chapter, or of which the owners or cultivators are  
11 unknown, or which are wild growths, may be seized and summarily  
12 forfeited to the board.

13 (13) The failure, upon demand by a board inspector or law  
14 enforcement officer, of the person in occupancy or in control of land  
15 or premises upon which the species of plants are growing or being  
16 stored to produce an appropriate registration or proof that he or she  
17 is the holder thereof constitutes authority for the seizure and  
18 forfeiture of the plants.

19 (14) Upon the entry of an order of forfeiture of real property, the  
20 court shall forward a copy of the order to the assessor of the county  
21 in which the property is located. Orders for the forfeiture of real  
22 property shall be entered by the superior court, subject to court  
23 rules. Such an order shall be filed by the seizing agency in the  
24 county auditor's records in the county in which the real property is  
25 located.

26 (15) A landlord may assert a claim against proceeds from the sale  
27 of assets seized and forfeited under subsection (7)(b) of this section,  
28 only if:

29 (a) A law enforcement officer, while acting in his or her official  
30 capacity, directly caused damage to the complaining landlord's property  
31 while executing a search of a tenant's residence; and

32 (b) The landlord has applied any funds remaining in the tenant's  
33 deposit, to which the landlord has a right under chapter 59.18 RCW, to  
34 cover the damage directly caused by a law enforcement officer prior to  
35 asserting a claim under the provisions of this section;

36 (i) Only if the funds applied under (b) of this subsection are  
37 insufficient to satisfy the damage directly caused by a law enforcement

1 officer, may the landlord seek compensation for the damage by filing a  
2 claim against the governmental entity under whose authority the law  
3 enforcement agency operates within thirty days after the search;

4 (ii) Only if the governmental entity denies or fails to respond to  
5 the landlord's claim within sixty days of the date of filing, may the  
6 landlord collect damages under this subsection by filing within thirty  
7 days of denial or the expiration of the sixty-day period, whichever  
8 occurs first, a claim with the seizing law enforcement agency. The  
9 seizing law enforcement agency must notify the landlord of the status  
10 of the claim by the end of the thirty-day period. Nothing in this  
11 section requires the claim to be paid by the end of the sixty-day or  
12 thirty-day period.

13 (c) For any claim filed under (b) of this subsection, the law  
14 enforcement agency shall pay the claim unless the agency provides  
15 substantial proof that the landlord either:

16 (i) Knew or consented to actions of the tenant in violation of this  
17 chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW; or

18 (ii) Failed to respond to a notification of the illegal activity,  
19 provided by a law enforcement agency under RCW 59.18.075, within seven  
20 days of receipt of notification of the illegal activity.

21 (16) The landlord's claim for damages under subsection (15) of this  
22 section may not include a claim for loss of business and is limited to:

23 (a) Damage to tangible property and clean-up costs;

24 (b) The lesser of the cost of repair or fair market value of the  
25 damage directly caused by a law enforcement officer;

26 (c) The proceeds from the sale of the specific tenant's property  
27 seized and forfeited under subsection (7)(b) of this section; and

28 (d) The proceeds available after the seizing law enforcement agency  
29 satisfies any bona fide security interest in the tenant's property and  
30 costs related to sale of the tenant's property as provided by  
31 subsection (9)(b) of this section.

32 (17) Subsections (15) and (16) of this section do not limit any  
33 other rights a landlord may have against a tenant to collect for  
34 damages. However, if a law enforcement agency satisfies a landlord's  
35 claim under subsection (15) of this section, the rights the landlord  
36 has against the tenant for damages directly caused by a law enforcement  
37 officer under the terms of the landlord and tenant's contract are  
38 subrogated to the law enforcement agency.



1       **Sec. 632.** RCW 64.06.010 and 2007 c 107 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       This chapter does not apply to the following transfers of  
4 residential real property:

5       (1) A foreclosure or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure;

6       (2) A gift or other transfer to a parent, spouse, domestic partner,  
7 or child of a transferor or child of any parent (~~(or)~~), spouse, or  
8 domestic partner of a transferor;

9       (3) A transfer between spouses or between domestic partners in  
10 connection with a marital dissolution or dissolution of a state  
11 registered domestic partnership;

12       (4) A transfer where a buyer had an ownership interest in the  
13 property within two years of the date of the transfer including, but  
14 not limited to, an ownership interest as a partner in a partnership, a  
15 limited partner in a limited partnership, a shareholder in a  
16 corporation, a leasehold interest, or transfers to and from a  
17 facilitator pursuant to a tax deferred exchange;

18       (5) A transfer of an interest that is less than fee simple, except  
19 that the transfer of a vendee's interest under a real estate contract  
20 is subject to the requirements of this chapter;

21       (6) A transfer made by the personal representative of the estate of  
22 the decedent or by a trustee in bankruptcy; and

23       (7) A transfer in which the buyer has expressly waived the receipt  
24 of the seller disclosure statement. However, if the answer to any of  
25 the questions in the section entitled "Environmental" would be "yes,"  
26 the buyer may not waive the receipt of the "Environmental" section of  
27 the seller disclosure statement.

28       **Sec. 633.** RCW 6.13.020 and 1987 c 442 s 202 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30       If the owner is married or in a state registered domestic  
31 partnership, the homestead may consist of the community or jointly  
32 owned property of the spouses or the domestic partners or the separate  
33 property of either spouse or either domestic partner: PROVIDED, That  
34 the same premises may not be claimed separately by the (~~husband and~~  
35 ~~wife~~) spouses or domestic partners with the effect of increasing the  
36 net value of the homestead available to the marital community or state  
37 registered domestic partnership beyond the amount specified in RCW

1 6.13.030 as now or hereafter amended. When the owner is not married or  
2 not in a state registered domestic partnership, the homestead may  
3 consist of any of his or her property.

4 **Sec. 634.** RCW 6.13.060 and 1987 c 442 s 206 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The homestead of a (~~married person~~) spouse or domestic partner  
7 cannot be conveyed or encumbered unless the instrument by which it is  
8 conveyed or encumbered is executed and acknowledged by both (~~husband~~  
9 ~~and wife~~) spouses or both domestic partners, except that (~~a husband~~  
10 ~~or a wife~~) either spouse or both or either domestic partner or both  
11 jointly may make and execute powers of attorney for the conveyance or  
12 encumbrance of the homestead.

13 **Sec. 635.** RCW 6.13.080 and 2007 c 429 s 2 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 The homestead exemption is not available against an execution or  
16 forced sale in satisfaction of judgments obtained:

17 (1) On debts secured by mechanic's, laborer's, construction,  
18 maritime, automobile repair, materialmen's or vendor's liens arising  
19 out of and against the particular property claimed as a homestead;

20 (2) On debts secured (a) by security agreements describing as  
21 collateral the property that is claimed as a homestead or (b) by  
22 mortgages or deeds of trust on the premises that have been executed and  
23 acknowledged by (~~the husband and wife~~) both spouses or both domestic  
24 partners or by any (~~unmarried~~) claimant not married or in a state  
25 registered domestic partnership;

26 (3) On one spouse's or one domestic partner's or the community's  
27 debts existing at the time of that spouse's or that domestic partner's  
28 bankruptcy filing where (a) bankruptcy is filed by both spouses or both  
29 domestic partners within a six-month period, other than in a joint case  
30 or a case in which their assets are jointly administered, and (b) the  
31 other spouse or other domestic partner exempts property from property  
32 of the estate under the bankruptcy exemption provisions of 11 U.S.C.  
33 Sec. 522(d);

34 (4) On debts arising from a lawful court order or decree or  
35 administrative order establishing a child support obligation or  
36 obligation to pay (~~spousal~~) maintenance;

1 (5) On debts owing to the state of Washington for recovery of  
2 medical assistance correctly paid on behalf of an individual consistent  
3 with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p;

4 (6) On debts secured by a condominium's or homeowner association's  
5 lien. In order for an association to be exempt under this provision,  
6 the association must have provided a homeowner with notice that  
7 nonpayment of the association's assessment may result in foreclosure of  
8 the association lien and that the homestead protection under this  
9 chapter shall not apply. An association has complied with this notice  
10 requirement by mailing the notice, by first-class mail, to the address  
11 of the owner's lot or unit. The notice required in this subsection  
12 shall be given within thirty days from the date the association learns  
13 of a new owner, but in all cases the notice must be given prior to the  
14 initiation of a foreclosure. The phrase "learns of a new owner" in  
15 this subsection means actual knowledge of the identity of a homeowner  
16 acquiring title after June 9, 1988, and does not require that an  
17 association affirmatively ascertain the identity of a homeowner.  
18 Failure to give the notice specified in this subsection affects an  
19 association's lien only for debts accrued up to the time an association  
20 complies with the notice provisions under this subsection; or

21 (7) On debts owed for taxes collected under chapters 82.08, 82.12,  
22 and 82.14 RCW but not remitted to the department of revenue.

23 **Sec. 636.** RCW 6.13.180 and 1987 c 442 s 218 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 The money paid to the owner is entitled to the same protection  
26 against legal process and the voluntary disposition of the ((~~husband or~~  
27 ~~wife~~)) other spouse or other domestic partner which the law gives to  
28 the homestead.

29 **Sec. 637.** RCW 6.13.210 and 1987 c 442 s 221 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 In case of a homestead, if either ((~~the husband or wife~~)) spouse or  
32 either domestic partner shall be or become incompetent or disabled to  
33 such a degree that he or she is unable to assist in the management of  
34 his or her interest in the ((~~marital~~)) property of the marriage or  
35 domestic partnership and no guardian has been appointed, upon  
36 application of the other spouse or other domestic partner to the

1 superior court of the county in which the homestead is situated, and  
2 upon due proof of such incompetency or disability in the severity  
3 required above, the court may make an order permitting the ((~~husband or~~  
4 ~~wife~~)) spouse or the domestic partner applying to the court to sell and  
5 convey or mortgage such homestead.

6 **Sec. 638.** RCW 6.13.220 and 1987 c 442 s 222 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Notice of the application for such order shall be given by  
9 publication of the same in a newspaper published in the county in which  
10 such homestead is situated, if there be a newspaper published therein,  
11 once each week for three successive weeks prior to the hearing of such  
12 application, and a copy of such notice shall be served upon the alleged  
13 incompetent ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or domestic partner personally,  
14 and upon the nearest relative of such incompetent or disabled ((~~husband~~  
15 ~~or wife~~)) spouse or domestic partner other than the applicant, resident  
16 in this state, at least three weeks prior to such application being  
17 heard, and in case there be no such relative known to the applicant, a  
18 copy of such notice shall be served upon the prosecuting attorney of  
19 the county in which such homestead is situated; and it is hereby made  
20 the duty of such prosecuting attorney, upon being served with a copy of  
21 such notice, to appear in court and see that such application is made  
22 in good faith, and that the proceedings thereon are fairly conducted.

23 **Sec. 639.** RCW 6.13.230 and 1987 c 442 s 223 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Thirty days before the hearing of any application under the  
26 provisions of this chapter, the applicant shall present and file in the  
27 court in which such application is to be heard a petition for the order  
28 mentioned, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, setting forth the  
29 name and age of the alleged incompetent or disabled ((~~husband or wife~~))  
30 spouse or domestic partner; a description of the premises constituting  
31 the homestead; the value of the same; the county in which it is  
32 situated; such facts necessary to show that the nonpetitioning  
33 ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or domestic partner is incompetent or  
34 disabled to the degree required under RCW 6.13.210; and such additional  
35 facts relating to the circumstances and necessities of the applicant

1 and his or her family as he or she may rely upon in support of the  
2 petition.

3 **Sec. 640.** RCW 26.16.125 and Code 1881 s 2399 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Henceforth the rights and responsibilities of the parents in the  
6 absence of misconduct shall be equal, and (~~the mother~~) one parent  
7 shall be as fully entitled to the custody, control and earnings of the  
8 children as the (~~father~~) other parent, and in case of (~~the~~  
9 ~~father's~~) one parent's death, the (~~mother~~) other parent shall come  
10 into (~~as~~) full and complete control of the children and their estate  
11 (~~as the father does in case of the mother's death~~).

12 **Sec. 641.** RCW 60.04.211 and 1991 c 281 s 21 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 The claim of lien, when filed as required by this chapter, shall be  
15 notice to the (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or the domestic partner of the  
16 person who appears of record to be the owner of the property sought to  
17 be charged with the lien, and shall subject all the community interest  
18 of both (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or both domestic partners to the  
19 lien.

20 **PART VII - TAXES**

21 **Sec. 701.** RCW 82.45.010 and 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 26 are each  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) As used in this chapter, the term "sale" shall have its  
24 ordinary meaning and shall include any conveyance, grant, assignment,  
25 quitclaim, or transfer of the ownership of or title to real property,  
26 including standing timber, or any estate or interest therein for a  
27 valuable consideration, and any contract for such conveyance, grant,  
28 assignment, quitclaim, or transfer, and any lease with an option to  
29 purchase real property, including standing timber, or any estate or  
30 interest therein or other contract under which possession of the  
31 property is given to the purchaser, or any other person at the  
32 purchaser's direction, and title to the property is retained by the  
33 vendor as security for the payment of the purchase price. The term

1 also includes the grant, assignment, quitclaim, sale, or transfer of  
2 improvements constructed upon leased land.

3 (2) The term "sale" also includes the transfer or acquisition  
4 within any twelve-month period of a controlling interest in any entity  
5 with an interest in real property located in this state for a valuable  
6 consideration. For purposes of this subsection, all acquisitions of  
7 persons acting in concert shall be aggregated for purposes of  
8 determining whether a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest  
9 has taken place. The department of revenue shall adopt standards by  
10 rule to determine when persons are acting in concert. In adopting a  
11 rule for this purpose, the department shall consider the following:

12 (a) Persons shall be treated as acting in concert when they have a  
13 relationship with each other such that one person influences or  
14 controls the actions of another through common ownership; and

15 (b) When persons are not commonly owned or controlled, they shall  
16 be treated as acting in concert only when the unity with which the  
17 purchasers have negotiated and will consummate the transfer of  
18 ownership interests supports a finding that they are acting as a single  
19 entity. If the acquisitions are completely independent, with each  
20 purchaser buying without regard to the identity of the other  
21 purchasers, then the acquisitions shall be considered separate  
22 acquisitions.

23 (3) The term "sale" shall not include:

24 (a) A transfer by gift, devise, or inheritance.

25 (b) A transfer of any leasehold interest other than of the type  
26 mentioned above.

27 (c) A cancellation or forfeiture of a vendee's interest in a  
28 contract for the sale of real property, whether or not such contract  
29 contains a forfeiture clause, or deed in lieu of foreclosure of a  
30 mortgage.

31 (d) The partition of property by tenants in common by agreement or  
32 as the result of a court decree.

33 (e) The assignment of property or interest in property from one  
34 spouse or one domestic partner to the other spouse or other domestic  
35 partner in accordance with the terms of a decree of ((divorce))  
36 dissolution of marriage or state registered domestic partnership or in  
37 fulfillment of a property settlement agreement.

1 (f) The assignment or other transfer of a vendor's interest in a  
2 contract for the sale of real property, even though accompanied by a  
3 conveyance of the vendor's interest in the real property involved.

4 (g) Transfers by appropriation or decree in condemnation  
5 proceedings brought by the United States, the state or any political  
6 subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation.

7 (h) A mortgage or other transfer of an interest in real property  
8 merely to secure a debt, or the assignment thereof.

9 (i) Any transfer or conveyance made pursuant to a deed of trust or  
10 an order of sale by the court in any mortgage, deed of trust, or lien  
11 foreclosure proceeding or upon execution of a judgment, or deed in lieu  
12 of foreclosure to satisfy a mortgage or deed of trust.

13 (j) A conveyance to the federal housing administration or veterans  
14 administration by an authorized mortgagee made pursuant to a contract  
15 of insurance or guaranty with the federal housing administration or  
16 veterans administration.

17 (k) A transfer in compliance with the terms of any lease or  
18 contract upon which the tax as imposed by this chapter has been paid or  
19 where the lease or contract was entered into prior to the date this tax  
20 was first imposed.

21 (l) The sale of any grave or lot in an established cemetery.

22 (m) A sale by the United States, this state or any political  
23 subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation of this state.

24 (n) A sale to a regional transit authority or public corporation  
25 under RCW 81.112.320 under a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW  
26 81.112.300.

27 (o) A transfer of real property, however effected, if it consists  
28 of a mere change in identity or form of ownership of an entity where  
29 there is no change in the beneficial ownership. These include  
30 transfers to a corporation or partnership which is wholly owned by the  
31 transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner or  
32 children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic  
33 partner: PROVIDED, That if thereafter such transferee corporation or  
34 partnership voluntarily transfers such real property, or such  
35 transferor, spouse or domestic partner, or children of the transferor  
36 or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner voluntarily transfer  
37 stock in the transferee corporation or interest in the transferee  
38 partnership capital, as the case may be, to other than (1) the

1 transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner or  
2 children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic  
3 partner, (2) a trust having the transferor and/or the transferor's  
4 spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor or the  
5 transferor's spouse or domestic partner as the only beneficiaries at  
6 the time of the transfer to the trust, or (3) a corporation or  
7 partnership wholly owned by the original transferor and/or the  
8 transferor's spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor  
9 or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner, within three years of  
10 the original transfer to which this exemption applies, and the tax on  
11 the subsequent transfer has not been paid within sixty days of becoming  
12 due, excise taxes shall become due and payable on the original transfer  
13 as otherwise provided by law.

14 (p)(i) A transfer that for federal income tax purposes does not  
15 involve the recognition of gain or loss for entity formation,  
16 liquidation or dissolution, and reorganization, including but not  
17 limited to nonrecognition of gain or loss because of application of  
18 section 332, 337, 351, 368(a)(1), 721, or 731 of the Internal Revenue  
19 Code of 1986, as amended.

20 (ii) However, the transfer described in (p)(i) of this subsection  
21 cannot be preceded or followed within a twelve-month period by another  
22 transfer or series of transfers, that, when combined with the otherwise  
23 exempt transfer or transfers described in (p)(i) of this subsection,  
24 results in the transfer of a controlling interest in the entity for  
25 valuable consideration, and in which one or more persons previously  
26 holding a controlling interest in the entity receive cash or property  
27 in exchange for any interest the person or persons acting in concert  
28 hold in the entity. This subsection (3)(p)(ii) does not apply to that  
29 part of the transfer involving property received that is the real  
30 property interest that the person or persons originally contributed to  
31 the entity or when one or more persons who did not contribute real  
32 property or belong to the entity at a time when real property was  
33 purchased receive cash or personal property in exchange for that person  
34 or persons' interest in the entity. The real estate excise tax under  
35 this subsection (3)(p)(ii) is imposed upon the person or persons who  
36 previously held a controlling interest in the entity.



1       **Sec. 702.** RCW 84.38.030 and 2006 c 62 s 3 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       A claimant may defer payment of special assessments and/or real  
4 property taxes on up to eighty percent of the amount of the claimant's  
5 equity value in the claimant's residence if the following conditions  
6 are met:

7       (1) The claimant must meet all requirements for an exemption for  
8 the residence under RCW 84.36.381, other than the age and income limits  
9 under RCW 84.36.381.

10       (2) The claimant must be sixty years of age or older on December  
11 31st of the year in which the deferral claim is filed, or must have  
12 been, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by  
13 reason of physical disability: PROVIDED, That any surviving spouse or  
14 surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving a deferral at  
15 the time of the person's death shall qualify if the surviving spouse or  
16 surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and  
17 otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

18       (3) The claimant must have a combined disposable income, as defined  
19 in RCW 84.36.383, of forty thousand dollars or less.

20       (4) The claimant must have owned, at the time of filing, the  
21 residence on which the special assessment and/or real property taxes  
22 have been imposed. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned  
23 by a marital community, owned by domestic partners, or owned by  
24 cotenants shall be deemed to be owned by each spouse, each domestic  
25 partner, or each cotenant. A claimant who has only a share ownership  
26 in cooperative housing, a life estate, a lease for life, or a revocable  
27 trust does not satisfy the ownership requirement.

28       (5) The claimant must have and keep in force fire and casualty  
29 insurance in sufficient amount to protect the interest of the state in  
30 the claimant's equity value: PROVIDED, That if the claimant fails to  
31 keep fire and casualty insurance in force to the extent of the state's  
32 interest in the claimant's equity value, the amount deferred shall not  
33 exceed one hundred percent of the claimant's equity value in the land  
34 or lot only.

35       (6) In the case of special assessment deferral, the claimant must  
36 have opted for payment of such special assessments on the installment  
37 method if such method was available.

1       **Sec. 703.** RCW 84.38.070 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 s 32 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       If the claimant declaring his or her intention to defer special  
4 assessments or real property tax obligations under this chapter ceases  
5 to reside permanently on the property for which the declaration to  
6 defer is made between the date of filing the declaration and December  
7 15th of that year, the deferral otherwise allowable under this chapter  
8 shall not be allowed on such tax roll. However, this section shall not  
9 apply where the claimant dies, leaving a spouse or domestic partner  
10 surviving, who is also eligible for deferral of special assessment  
11 and/or property taxes.

12       **Sec. 704.** RCW 84.38.130 and 1984 c 220 s 26 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14       Special assessments and/or real property tax obligations deferred  
15 under this chapter shall become payable together with interest as  
16 provided in RCW 84.38.100:

17       (1) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred special  
18 assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it.

19       (2) Upon the death of the claimant with an outstanding deferred  
20 special assessment and/or real property tax lien except a surviving  
21 spouse or surviving domestic partner who is qualified under this  
22 chapter may elect to incur the special assessment and/or real property  
23 tax lien which shall then be payable by that spouse or that domestic  
24 partner as provided in this section.

25       (3) Upon the condemnation of property with a deferred special  
26 assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it by a public or private  
27 body exercising eminent domain power, except as otherwise provided in  
28 RCW 84.60.070.

29       (4) At such time as the claimant ceases to reside permanently in  
30 the residence upon which the deferral has been granted.

31       (5) Upon the failure of any condition set forth in RCW 84.38.030.

32       **Sec. 705.** RCW 84.38.150 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 s 40 are each  
33 amended to read as follows:

34       (1) A surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of the  
35 claimant may elect to continue the property in its deferred tax status

1 if the property is the residence of the spouse or domestic partner of  
2 the claimant and the spouse or domestic partner meets the requirements  
3 of this chapter.

4 (2) The election under this section to continue the property in its  
5 deferred status by the spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant  
6 shall be filed in the same manner as an original claim for deferral is  
7 filed under this chapter, not later than ninety days from the date of  
8 the claimant's death. Thereupon, the property with respect to which  
9 the deferral of special assessments and/or real property taxes is  
10 claimed shall continue to be treated as deferred property. When the  
11 property has been continued in its deferred status by the filing of the  
12 spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant of an election under  
13 this section, the spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant may  
14 continue the property in its deferred status in subsequent years by  
15 filing a claim under this chapter so long as the spouse or the domestic  
16 partner meets the qualifications set out in this section.

17 **Sec. 706.** RCW 84.36.381 and 2005 c 248 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 A person shall be exempt from any legal obligation to pay all or a  
20 portion of the amount of excess and regular real property taxes due and  
21 payable in the year following the year in which a claim is filed, and  
22 thereafter, in accordance with the following:

23 (1) The property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence  
24 which was occupied by the person claiming the exemption as a principal  
25 place of residence as of the time of filing: PROVIDED, That any person  
26 who sells, transfers, or is displaced from his or her residence may  
27 transfer his or her exemption status to a replacement residence, but no  
28 claimant shall receive an exemption on more than one residence in any  
29 year: PROVIDED FURTHER, That confinement of the person to a hospital,  
30 nursing home, boarding home, or adult family home shall not disqualify  
31 the claim of exemption if:

32 (a) The residence is temporarily unoccupied;

33 (b) The residence is occupied by a spouse or a domestic partner  
34 and/or a person financially dependent on the claimant for support; or

35 (c) The residence is rented for the purpose of paying nursing home,  
36 hospital, boarding home, or adult family home costs;

1           (2) The person claiming the exemption must have owned, at the time  
2 of filing, in fee, as a life estate, or by contract purchase, the  
3 residence on which the property taxes have been imposed or if the  
4 person claiming the exemption lives in a cooperative housing  
5 association, corporation, or partnership, such person must own a share  
6 therein representing the unit or portion of the structure in which he  
7 or she resides. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by  
8 a marital community or state registered domestic partnership or owned  
9 by cotenants shall be deemed to be owned by each spouse or each  
10 domestic partner or each cotenant, and any lease for life shall be  
11 deemed a life estate;

12           (3) The person claiming the exemption must be (a) sixty-one years  
13 of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the exemption  
14 claim is filed, or must have been, at the time of filing, retired from  
15 regular gainful employment by reason of disability, or (b) a veteran of  
16 the armed forces of the United States with one hundred percent service-  
17 connected disability as provided in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 423 (d)(1)(A) as  
18 amended prior to January 1, 2005. However, any surviving spouse or  
19 surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving an exemption  
20 at the time of the person's death shall qualify if the surviving spouse  
21 or surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and  
22 otherwise meets the requirements of this section;

23           (4) The amount that the person shall be exempt from an obligation  
24 to pay shall be calculated on the basis of combined disposable income,  
25 as defined in RCW 84.36.383. If the person claiming the exemption was  
26 retired for two months or more of the assessment year, the combined  
27 disposable income of such person shall be calculated by multiplying the  
28 average monthly combined disposable income of such person during the  
29 months such person was retired by twelve. If the income of the person  
30 claiming exemption is reduced for two or more months of the assessment  
31 year by reason of the death of the person's spouse or the person's  
32 domestic partner, or when other substantial changes occur in disposable  
33 income that are likely to continue for an indefinite period of time,  
34 the combined disposable income of such person shall be calculated by  
35 multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such  
36 person after such occurrences by twelve. If it is necessary to  
37 estimate income to comply with this subsection, the assessor may

1 require confirming documentation of such income prior to May 31 of the  
2 year following application;

3 (5)(a) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has  
4 a combined disposable income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less  
5 shall be exempt from all excess property taxes; and

6 (b)(i) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has  
7 a combined disposable income of thirty thousand dollars or less but  
8 greater than twenty-five thousand dollars shall be exempt from all  
9 regular property taxes on the greater of fifty thousand dollars or  
10 thirty-five percent of the valuation of his or her residence, but not  
11 to exceed seventy thousand dollars of the valuation of his or her  
12 residence; or

13 (ii) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a  
14 combined disposable income of twenty-five thousand dollars or less  
15 shall be exempt from all regular property taxes on the greater of sixty  
16 thousand dollars or sixty percent of the valuation of his or her  
17 residence;

18 (6) For a person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has  
19 a combined disposable income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less,  
20 the valuation of the residence shall be the assessed value of the  
21 residence on the later of January 1, 1995, or January 1st of the  
22 assessment year the person first qualifies under this section. If the  
23 person subsequently fails to qualify under this section only for one  
24 year because of high income, this same valuation shall be used upon  
25 requalification. If the person fails to qualify for more than one year  
26 in succession because of high income or fails to qualify for any other  
27 reason, the valuation upon requalification shall be the assessed value  
28 on January 1st of the assessment year in which the person requalifies.  
29 If the person transfers the exemption under this section to a different  
30 residence, the valuation of the different residence shall be the  
31 assessed value of the different residence on January 1st of the  
32 assessment year in which the person transfers the exemption.

33 In no event may the valuation under this subsection be greater than  
34 the true and fair value of the residence on January 1st of the  
35 assessment year.

36 This subsection does not apply to subsequent improvements to the  
37 property in the year in which the improvements are made. Subsequent

1 improvements to the property shall be added to the value otherwise  
2 determined under this subsection at their true and fair value in the  
3 year in which they are made.

4 **Sec. 707.** RCW 84.36.041 and 2001 c 187 s 14 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home for the  
7 aging that is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home is  
8 exempt from taxation if the benefit of the exemption inures to the home  
9 and:

10 (a) At least fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units in the  
11 home are occupied by eligible residents; or

12 (b) The home is subsidized under a federal department of housing  
13 and urban development program. The department of revenue shall provide  
14 by rule a definition of homes eligible for exemption under this  
15 subsection (1)(b), consistent with the purposes of this section.

16 (2) All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home for the  
17 aging that is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home is  
18 exempt from taxation if the benefit of the exemption inures to the home  
19 and the construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, or refinancing of  
20 the home is financed under a program using bonds exempt from federal  
21 income tax if at least seventy-five percent of the total amount  
22 financed uses the tax exempt bonds and the financing program requires  
23 the home to reserve a percentage of all dwelling units so financed for  
24 low-income residents. The initial term of the exemption under this  
25 subsection shall equal the term of the tax exempt bond used in  
26 connection with the financing program, or the term of the requirement  
27 to reserve dwelling units for low-income residents, whichever is  
28 shorter. If the financing program involves less than the entire home,  
29 only those dwelling units included in the financing program are  
30 eligible for total exemption. The department of revenue shall provide  
31 by rule the requirements for monitoring compliance with the provisions  
32 of this subsection and the requirements for exemption including:

33 (a) The number or percentage of dwelling units required to be  
34 occupied by low-income residents, and a definition of low income;

35 (b) The type and character of the dwelling units, whether  
36 independent units or otherwise; and

1 (c) Any particular requirements for continuing care retirement  
2 communities.

3 (3) A home for the aging is eligible for a partial exemption on the  
4 real property and a total exemption for the home's personal property if  
5 the home does not meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this  
6 section because fewer than fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units  
7 are occupied by eligible residents, as follows:

8 (a) A partial exemption shall be allowed for each dwelling unit in  
9 a home occupied by a resident requiring assistance with activities of  
10 daily living.

11 (b) A partial exemption shall be allowed for each dwelling unit in  
12 a home occupied by an eligible resident.

13 (c) A partial exemption shall be allowed for an area jointly used  
14 by a home for the aging and by a nonprofit organization, association,  
15 or corporation currently exempt from property taxation under one of the  
16 other provisions of this chapter. The shared area must be reasonably  
17 necessary for the purposes of the nonprofit organization, association,  
18 or corporation exempt from property taxation under one of the other  
19 provisions of this chapter, such as kitchen, dining, and laundry areas.

20 (d) The amount of exemption shall be calculated by multiplying the  
21 assessed value of the property reasonably necessary for the purposes of  
22 the home, less the assessed value of any area exempt under (c) of this  
23 subsection, by a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the number  
24 of dwelling units occupied by eligible residents and by residents  
25 requiring assistance with activities of daily living. The denominator  
26 of the fraction is the total number of occupied dwelling units as of  
27 December 31st of the first assessment year the home becomes operational  
28 for which exemption is claimed and January 1st of each subsequent  
29 assessment year for which exemption is claimed.

30 (4) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used  
31 exclusively for the purposes for which the exemption is granted, except  
32 as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

33 (5) A home for the aging is exempt from taxation only if the  
34 organization operating the home is exempt from income tax under section  
35 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code as existing on January 1,  
36 1989, or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule  
37 consistent with the purposes of this section.

1 (6) In order for the home to be eligible for exemption under  
2 subsections (1)(a) and (3)(b) of this section, each eligible resident  
3 of a home for the aging shall submit an income verification form to the  
4 county assessor by July 1st of the assessment year for which exemption  
5 is claimed. However, during the first year a home becomes operational,  
6 the county assessor shall accept income verification forms from  
7 eligible residents up to December 31st of the assessment year. The  
8 income verification form shall be prescribed and furnished by the  
9 department of revenue. An eligible resident who has filed a form for  
10 a previous year need not file a new form until there is a change in  
11 status affecting the person's eligibility.

12 (7) In determining the true and fair value of a home for the aging  
13 for purposes of the partial exemption provided by subsection (3) of  
14 this section, the assessor shall apply the computation method provided  
15 by RCW 84.34.060 and shall consider only the use to which such property  
16 is applied during the years for which such partial exemptions are  
17 available and shall not consider potential uses of such property.

18 (8) As used in this section:

19 (a) "Eligible resident" means a person who:

20 (i) Occupied the dwelling unit as a principal place of residence as  
21 of December 31st of the first assessment year the home becomes  
22 operational. In each subsequent year, the eligible resident must  
23 occupy the dwelling unit as a principal place of residence as of  
24 January 1st of the assessment year for which the exemption is claimed.  
25 Confinement of the person to a hospital or nursing home does not  
26 disqualify the claim of exemption if the dwelling unit is temporarily  
27 unoccupied or if the dwelling unit is occupied by a spouse or a  
28 domestic partner, a person financially dependent on the claimant for  
29 support, or both; and

30 (ii) Is sixty-one years of age or older on December 31st of the  
31 year in which the exemption claim is filed, or is, at the time of  
32 filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of physical  
33 disability. Any surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a  
34 person who was receiving an exemption at the time of the person's death  
35 shall qualify if the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is  
36 fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements  
37 of this subsection; and



1 (iii) Has a combined disposable income of no more than the greater  
2 of twenty-two thousand dollars or eighty percent of the median income  
3 adjusted for family size as most recently determined by the federal  
4 department of housing and urban development for the county in which the  
5 person resides. For the purposes of determining eligibility under this  
6 section, a "cotenant" means a person who resides with an eligible  
7 resident and who shares personal financial resources with the eligible  
8 resident.

9 (b) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the  
10 person submitting the income verification form, plus the disposable  
11 income of his or her spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable  
12 income of each cotenant occupying the dwelling unit for the preceding  
13 calendar year, less amounts paid by the person submitting the income  
14 verification form or his or her spouse or domestic partner or cotenant  
15 during the previous year for the treatment or care of either person  
16 received in the dwelling unit or in a nursing home. If the person  
17 submitting the income verification form was retired for two months or  
18 more of the preceding year, the combined disposable income of such  
19 person shall be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined  
20 disposable income of such person during the months such person was  
21 retired by twelve. If the income of the person submitting the income  
22 verification form is reduced for two or more months of the preceding  
23 year by reason of the death of the person's spouse or domestic partner,  
24 the combined disposable income of such person shall be calculated by  
25 multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such  
26 person after the death of the spouse or domestic partner by twelve.

27 (c) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in  
28 the federal internal revenue code, as amended prior to January 1, 1989,  
29 or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent  
30 with the purpose of this section, plus all of the following items to  
31 the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted  
32 gross income:

33 (i) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under  
34 section 121 of the federal internal revenue code to the extent it is  
35 reinvested in a new principal residence;

36 (ii) Amounts deducted for loss;

37 (iii) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

38 (iv) Pension and annuity receipts;

1 (v) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and  
2 medical-aid payments;

3 (vi) Veterans benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid  
4 payments;

5 (vii) Federal social security act and railroad retirement benefits;

6 (viii) Dividend receipts; and

7 (ix) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

8 (d) "Resident requiring assistance with activities of daily living"  
9 means a person who requires significant assistance with the activities  
10 of daily living and who would be at risk of nursing home placement  
11 without this assistance.

12 (e) "Home for the aging" means a residential housing facility that  
13 (i) provides a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by the resident,  
14 the resident's guardian or conservator, or another responsible person;  
15 (ii) has only residents who are at least sixty-one years of age or who  
16 have needs for care generally compatible with persons who are at least  
17 sixty-one years of age; and (iii) provides varying levels of care and  
18 supervision, as agreed to at the time of admission or as determined  
19 necessary at subsequent times of reappraisal.

20 (9) A for-profit home for the aging that converts to nonprofit  
21 status after June 11, 1992, and would otherwise be eligible for tax  
22 exemption under this section may not receive the tax exemption until  
23 five years have elapsed since the conversion. The exemption shall then  
24 be ratably granted over the next five years.

25 **Sec. 708.** RCW 84.36.120 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 120 are each  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 For the purposes of RCW 84.36.110 "head of a family" shall be  
28 construed to include a surviving spouse (~~((not))~~) or surviving domestic  
29 partner who has neither remarried nor entered into a subsequent  
30 domestic partnership, any person receiving an old age pension under the  
31 laws of this state and any citizen of the United States, over the age  
32 of sixty-five years, who has resided in the state of Washington  
33 continuously for ten years.

34 "Personal effects" shall be construed to mean and include such  
35 tangible property as usually and ordinarily attends the person such as  
36 wearing apparel, jewelry, toilet articles and the like.

1 "Private motor vehicle" shall be construed to mean and include all  
2 motor vehicles used for the convenience or pleasure of the owner and  
3 carrying a licensing classification other than motor vehicle for hire,  
4 auto stage, auto stage trailer, motor truck, motor truck trailer or  
5 dealers' licenses.

6 "Mobile home" shall be construed to mean and include all trailers  
7 of the type designed as facilities for human habitation and which are  
8 capable of being moved upon the public streets and highways and which  
9 are more than thirty-five feet in length or more than eight feet in  
10 width.

11 **Sec. 709.** RCW 84.36.383 and 2006 c 62 s 1 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 As used in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, except where the  
14 context clearly indicates a different meaning:

15 (1) The term "residence" means a single family dwelling unit  
16 whether such unit be separate or part of a multiunit dwelling,  
17 including the land on which such dwelling stands not to exceed one  
18 acre, except that a residence includes any additional property up to a  
19 total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if this  
20 larger parcel size is required under land use regulations. The term  
21 shall also include a share ownership in a cooperative housing  
22 association, corporation, or partnership if the person claiming  
23 exemption can establish that his or her share represents the specific  
24 unit or portion of such structure in which he or she resides. The term  
25 shall also include a single family dwelling situated upon lands the fee  
26 of which is vested in the United States or any instrumentality thereof  
27 including an Indian tribe or in the state of Washington, and  
28 notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.04.080 and 84.04.090, such a  
29 residence shall be deemed real property.

30 (2) The term "real property" shall also include a mobile home which  
31 has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its  
32 being fixed in location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the  
33 mobile home and placed on a foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed  
34 pipe, connections with sewer, water, or other utilities. A mobile home  
35 located on land leased by the owner of the mobile home is subject, for  
36 tax billing, payment, and collection purposes, only to the personal  
37 property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040.

1 (3) "Department" means the state department of revenue.

2 (4) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the  
3 person claiming the exemption, plus the disposable income of his or her  
4 spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable income of each cotenant  
5 occupying the residence for the assessment year, less amounts paid by  
6 the person claiming the exemption or his or her spouse during the  
7 assessment year for:

8 (a) Drugs supplied by prescription of a medical practitioner  
9 authorized by the laws of this state or another jurisdiction to issue  
10 prescriptions;

11 (b) The treatment or care of either person received in the home or  
12 in a nursing home, boarding home, or adult family home; and

13 (c) Health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII  
14 of the social security act.

15 (5) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in  
16 the federal internal revenue code, as amended prior to January 1, 1989,  
17 or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent  
18 with the purpose of this section, plus all of the following items to  
19 the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted  
20 gross income:

21 (a) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under  
22 section 121 of the federal internal revenue code to the extent it is  
23 reinvested in a new principal residence;

24 (b) Amounts deducted for loss;

25 (c) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

26 (d) Pension and annuity receipts;

27 (e) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and  
28 medical-aid payments;

29 (f) Veterans benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid  
30 payments;

31 (g) Federal social security act and railroad retirement benefits;

32 (h) Dividend receipts; and

33 (i) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

34 (6) "Cotenant" means a person who resides with the person claiming  
35 the exemption and who has an ownership interest in the residence.

36 (7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in 42 U.S.C. Sec.  
37 423(d)(1)(A) as amended prior to January 1, 2004, or such subsequent

1 date as the director may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of  
2 this section.

3 **Sec. 710.** RCW 84.37.080 and 2007 sp.s. c 2 s 8 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Special assessments or real property tax obligations, or both,  
6 deferred under this chapter shall become payable together with interest  
7 as provided in RCW 84.37.070:

8 (1) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred special  
9 assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, upon it;

10 (2) Upon the death of the claimant with an outstanding deferred  
11 special assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, except a  
12 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner who is qualified under  
13 this chapter may elect to incur the special assessment lien or real  
14 property tax lien, or both, which shall then be payable by that spouse  
15 or that domestic partner as provided in this section;

16 (3) Upon the condemnation of property with a deferred special  
17 assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, upon it by a public  
18 or private body exercising eminent domain power, except as otherwise  
19 provided in RCW 84.60.070; or

20 (4) At such time as the claimant ceases to reside permanently in  
21 the residence upon which the deferral has been granted.

22 **PART VIII - GUARDIANSHIP AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

23 **Sec. 801.** RCW 7.36.020 and 1977 ex.s. c 80 s 8 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Writs of habeas corpus shall be granted in favor of parents,  
26 guardians, limited guardians where appropriate, spouses or domestic  
27 partners, and next of kin, and to enforce the rights, and for the  
28 protection of infants and incompetent or disabled persons within the  
29 meaning of RCW 11.88.010; and the proceedings shall in all cases  
30 conform to the provisions of this chapter.

31 **Sec. 802.** RCW 11.88.010 and 2005 c 236 s 3 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The superior court of each county shall have power to appoint

1 guardians for the persons and/or estates of incapacitated persons, and  
2 guardians for the estates of nonresidents of the state who have  
3 property in the county needing care and attention.

4 (a) For purposes of this chapter, a person may be deemed  
5 incapacitated as to person when the superior court determines the  
6 individual has a significant risk of personal harm based upon a  
7 demonstrated inability to adequately provide for nutrition, health,  
8 housing, or physical safety.

9 (b) For purposes of this chapter, a person may be deemed  
10 incapacitated as to the person's estate when the superior court  
11 determines the individual is at significant risk of financial harm  
12 based upon a demonstrated inability to adequately manage property or  
13 financial affairs.

14 (c) A determination of incapacity is a legal not a medical  
15 decision, based upon a demonstration of management insufficiencies over  
16 time in the area of person or estate. Age, eccentricity, poverty, or  
17 medical diagnosis alone shall not be sufficient to justify a finding of  
18 incapacity.

19 (d) A person may also be determined incapacitated if he or she is  
20 under the age of majority as defined in RCW 26.28.010.

21 (e) For purposes of giving informed consent for health care  
22 pursuant to RCW 7.70.050 and 7.70.065, an "incompetent" person is any  
23 person who is (i) incompetent by reason of mental illness,  
24 developmental disability, senility, habitual drunkenness, excessive use  
25 of drugs, or other mental incapacity, of either managing his or her  
26 property or caring for himself or herself, or both, or (ii)  
27 incapacitated as defined in (a), (b), or (d) of this subsection.

28 (f) For purposes of the terms "incompetent," "disabled," or "not  
29 legally competent," as those terms are used in the Revised Code of  
30 Washington to apply to persons incapacitated under this chapter, those  
31 terms shall be interpreted to mean "incapacitated" persons for purposes  
32 of this chapter.

33 (2) The superior court for each county shall have power to appoint  
34 limited guardians for the persons and estates, or either thereof, of  
35 incapacitated persons, who by reason of their incapacity have need for  
36 protection and assistance, but who are capable of managing some of  
37 their personal and financial affairs. After considering all evidence  
38 presented as a result of such investigation, the court shall impose, by

1 order, only such specific limitations and restrictions on an  
2 incapacitated person to be placed under a limited guardianship as the  
3 court finds necessary for such person's protection and assistance. A  
4 person shall not be presumed to be incapacitated nor shall a person  
5 lose any legal rights or suffer any legal disabilities as the result of  
6 being placed under a limited guardianship, except as to those rights  
7 and disabilities specifically set forth in the court order establishing  
8 such a limited guardianship. In addition, the court order shall state  
9 the period of time for which it shall be applicable.

10 (3) Venue for petitions for guardianship or limited guardianship  
11 shall lie in the county wherein the alleged incapacitated person is  
12 domiciled, or if such person resides in a facility supported in whole  
13 or in part by local, state, or federal funding sources, in either the  
14 county where the facility is located, the county of domicile prior to  
15 residence in the supported facility, or the county where a parent or  
16 spouse or domestic partner of the alleged incapacitated person is  
17 domiciled.

18 If the alleged incapacitated person's residency has changed within  
19 one year of the filing of the petition, any interested person may move  
20 for a change of venue for any proceedings seeking the appointment of a  
21 guardian or a limited guardian under this chapter to the county of the  
22 alleged incapacitated person's last place of residence of one year or  
23 more. The motion shall be granted when it appears to the court that  
24 such venue would be in the best interests of the alleged incapacitated  
25 person and would promote more complete consideration of all relevant  
26 matters.

27 (4) Under RCW 11.94.010, a principal may nominate, by a durable  
28 power of attorney, the guardian or limited guardian of his or her  
29 estate or person for consideration by the court if guardianship  
30 proceedings for the principal's person or estate are thereafter  
31 commenced. The court shall make its appointment in accordance with the  
32 principal's most recent nomination in a durable power of attorney  
33 except for good cause or disqualification.

34 (5) Imposition of a guardianship for an incapacitated person shall  
35 not result in the loss of the right to vote unless the court determines  
36 that the person is incompetent for purposes of rationally exercising  
37 the franchise in that the individual lacks the capacity to understand  
38 the nature and effect of voting such that she or he cannot make an

1 individual choice. The court order establishing guardianship shall  
2 specify whether or not the individual retains voting rights. When a  
3 court determines that the person is incompetent for the purpose of  
4 rationally exercising the right to vote, the court shall notify the  
5 appropriate county auditor.

6 **Sec. 803.** RCW 11.88.040 and 1995 c 297 s 2 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Before appointing a guardian or a limited guardian, notice of a  
9 hearing, to be held not less than ten days after service thereof, shall  
10 be served personally upon the alleged incapacitated person, if over  
11 fourteen years of age, and served upon the guardian ad litem.

12 Before appointing a guardian or a limited guardian, notice of a  
13 hearing, to be held not less than ten days after service thereof, shall  
14 be given by registered or certified mail to the last known address  
15 requesting a return receipt signed by the addressee or an agent  
16 appointed by the addressee, or by personal service in the manner  
17 provided for services of summons, to the following:

18 (1) The alleged incapacitated person, or minor, if under fourteen  
19 years of age;

20 (2) A parent, if the alleged incapacitated person is a minor, all  
21 known children not residing with a notified person, and the spouse or  
22 domestic partner of the alleged incapacitated person if any;

23 (3) Any other person who has been appointed as guardian or limited  
24 guardian, or the person with whom the alleged incapacitated person  
25 resides. No notice need be given to those persons named in subsections  
26 (2) and (3) of this section if they have signed the petition for the  
27 appointment of the guardian or limited guardian or have waived notice  
28 of the hearing.

29 (4) If the petition is by a parent asking for appointment as  
30 guardian or limited guardian of a minor child under the age of fourteen  
31 years, or if the petition is accompanied by the written consent of a  
32 minor of the age of fourteen years or upward, who consents to the  
33 appointment of the guardian or limited guardian asked for, or if the  
34 petition is by a nonresident guardian of any minor or incapacitated  
35 person, then the court may appoint the guardian without notice of the  
36 hearing. The court for good cause may reduce the number of days of  
37 notice, but in every case, at least three days notice shall be given.



1       The alleged incapacitated person shall be present in court at the  
2 final hearing on the petition: PROVIDED, That this requirement may be  
3 waived at the discretion of the court for good cause other than mere  
4 inconvenience shown in the report to be provided by the guardian ad  
5 litem pursuant to RCW 11.88.090 as now or hereafter amended, or if no  
6 guardian ad litem is required to be appointed pursuant to RCW  
7 11.88.090, as now or hereafter amended, at the discretion of the court  
8 for good cause shown by a party. Alternatively, the court may remove  
9 itself to the place of residence of the alleged incapacitated person  
10 and conduct the final hearing in the presence of the alleged  
11 incapacitated person. Final hearings on the petition may be held in  
12 closed court without admittance of any person other than those  
13 necessary to the action or proceeding.

14       If presence of the alleged incapacitated person is waived and the  
15 court does not remove itself to the place of residence of such person,  
16 the guardian ad litem shall appear in person at the final hearing on  
17 the petition.

18       **Sec. 804.** RCW 11.88.090 and 2000 c 124 s 1 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20       (1) Nothing contained in RCW 11.88.080 through 11.88.120, 11.92.010  
21 through 11.92.040, 11.92.060 through 11.92.120, 11.92.170, and  
22 11.92.180 shall affect or impair the power of any court to appoint a  
23 guardian ad litem to defend the interests of any incapacitated person  
24 interested in any suit or matter pending therein, or to commence and  
25 prosecute any suit in his or her behalf.

26       (2) Prior to the appointment of a guardian or a limited guardian,  
27 whenever it appears that the incapacitated person or incapacitated  
28 person's estate could benefit from mediation and such mediation would  
29 likely result in overall reduced costs to the estate, upon the motion  
30 of the alleged incapacitated person or the guardian ad litem, or  
31 subsequent to such appointment, whenever it appears that the  
32 incapacitated person or incapacitated person's estate could benefit  
33 from mediation and such mediation would likely result in overall  
34 reduced costs to the estate, upon the motion of any interested person,  
35 the court may:

36       (a) Require any party or other person subject to the jurisdiction  
37 of the court to participate in mediation;

1 (b) Establish the terms of the mediation; and

2 (c) Allocate the cost of the mediation pursuant to RCW 11.96.140.

3 (3) Upon receipt of a petition for appointment of guardian or  
4 limited guardian, except as provided herein, the court shall appoint a  
5 guardian ad litem to represent the best interests of the alleged  
6 incapacitated person, who shall be a person found or known by the court  
7 to:

8 (a) Be free of influence from anyone interested in the result of  
9 the proceeding; and

10 (b) Have the requisite knowledge, training, or expertise to perform  
11 the duties required by this section.

12 The guardian ad litem shall within five days of receipt of notice  
13 of appointment file with the court and serve, either personally or by  
14 certified mail with return receipt, each party with a statement  
15 including: His or her training relating to the duties as a guardian ad  
16 litem; his or her criminal history as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 for the  
17 period covering ten years prior to the appointment; his or her hourly  
18 rate, if compensated; whether the guardian ad litem has had any contact  
19 with a party to the proceeding prior to his or her appointment; and  
20 whether he or she has an apparent conflict of interest. Within three  
21 days of the later of the actual service or filing of the guardian ad  
22 litem's statement, any party may set a hearing and file and serve a  
23 motion for an order to show cause why the guardian ad litem should not  
24 be removed for one of the following three reasons: (i) Lack of  
25 expertise necessary for the proceeding; (ii) an hourly rate higher than  
26 what is reasonable for the particular proceeding; or (iii) a conflict  
27 of interest. Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the guardian  
28 ad litem and all parties. If, after a hearing, the court enters an  
29 order replacing the guardian ad litem, findings shall be included,  
30 expressly stating the reasons for the removal. If the guardian ad  
31 litem is not removed, the court has the authority to assess to the  
32 moving party, attorneys' fees and costs related to the motion. The  
33 court shall assess attorneys' fees and costs for frivolous motions.

34 No guardian ad litem need be appointed when a parent is petitioning  
35 for a guardian or a limited guardian to be appointed for his or her  
36 minor child and the minority of the child, as defined by RCW 11.92.010,  
37 is the sole basis of the petition. The order appointing the guardian  
38 ad litem shall recite the duties set forth in subsection (5) of this

1 section. The appointment of a guardian ad litem shall have no effect  
2 on the legal competency of the alleged incapacitated person and shall  
3 not overcome the presumption of competency or full legal and civil  
4 rights of the alleged incapacitated person.

5 (4)(a) The superior court of each county shall develop and maintain  
6 a registry of persons who are willing and qualified to serve as  
7 guardians ad litem in guardianship matters. The court shall choose as  
8 guardian ad litem a person whose name appears on the registry in a  
9 system of consistent rotation, except in extraordinary circumstances  
10 such as the need for particular expertise. The court shall develop  
11 procedures for periodic review of the persons on the registry and for  
12 probation, suspension, or removal of persons on the registry for  
13 failure to perform properly their duties as guardian ad litem. In the  
14 event the court does not select the person next on the list, it shall  
15 include in the order of appointment a written reason for its decision.

16 (b) To be eligible for the registry a person shall:

17 (i) Present a written statement outlining his or her background and  
18 qualifications. The background statement shall include, but is not  
19 limited to, the following information:

20 (A) Level of formal education;

21 (B) Training related to the guardian ad litem's duties;

22 (C) Number of years' experience as a guardian ad litem;

23 (D) Number of appointments as a guardian ad litem and the county or  
24 counties of appointment;

25 (E) Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030; and

26 (F) Evidence of the person's knowledge, training, and experience in  
27 each of the following: Needs of impaired elderly people, physical  
28 disabilities, mental illness, developmental disabilities, and other  
29 areas relevant to the needs of incapacitated persons, legal procedure,  
30 and the requirements of chapters 11.88 and 11.92 RCW.

31 The written statement of qualifications shall include the names of  
32 any counties in which the person was removed from a guardian ad litem  
33 registry pursuant to a grievance action, and the name of the court and  
34 the cause number of any case in which the court has removed the person  
35 for cause; and

36 (ii) Complete the training as described in (e) of this subsection.  
37 The training is not applicable to guardians ad litem appointed pursuant  
38 to special proceeding Rule 98.16W.

1 (c) Superior court shall remove any person from the guardian ad  
2 litem registry who misrepresents his or her qualifications pursuant to  
3 a grievance procedure established by the court.

4 (d) The background and qualification information shall be updated  
5 annually.

6 (e) The department of social and health services shall convene an  
7 advisory group to develop a model guardian ad litem training program  
8 and shall update the program biennially. The advisory group shall  
9 consist of representatives from consumer, advocacy, and professional  
10 groups knowledgeable in developmental disabilities, neurological  
11 impairment, physical disabilities, mental illness, domestic violence,  
12 aging, legal, court administration, the Washington state bar  
13 association, and other interested parties.

14 (f) The superior court shall require utilization of the model  
15 program developed by the advisory group as described in (e) of this  
16 subsection, to assure that candidates applying for registration as a  
17 qualified guardian ad litem shall have satisfactorily completed  
18 training to attain these essential minimum qualifications to act as  
19 guardian ad litem.

20 (5) The guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to this section shall  
21 have the following duties:

22 (a) To meet and consult with the alleged incapacitated person as  
23 soon as practicable following appointment and explain, in language  
24 which such person can reasonably be expected to understand, the  
25 substance of the petition, the nature of the resultant proceedings, the  
26 person's right to contest the petition, the identification of the  
27 proposed guardian or limited guardian, the right to a jury trial on the  
28 issue of his or her alleged incapacity, the right to independent legal  
29 counsel as provided by RCW 11.88.045, and the right to be present in  
30 court at the hearing on the petition;

31 (b) To obtain a written report according to RCW 11.88.045; and such  
32 other written or oral reports from other qualified professionals as are  
33 necessary to permit the guardian ad litem to complete the report  
34 required by this section;

35 (c) To meet with the person whose appointment is sought as guardian  
36 or limited guardian and ascertain:

37 (i) The proposed guardian's knowledge of the duties, requirements,  
38 and limitations of a guardian; and

1 (ii) The steps the proposed guardian intends to take or has taken  
2 to identify and meet the needs of the alleged incapacitated person;

3 (d) To consult as necessary to complete the investigation and  
4 report required by this section with those known relatives, friends, or  
5 other persons the guardian ad litem determines have had a significant,  
6 continuing interest in the welfare of the alleged incapacitated person;

7 (e) To investigate alternate arrangements made, or which might be  
8 created, by or on behalf of the alleged incapacitated person, such as  
9 revocable or irrevocable trusts, durable powers of attorney, or blocked  
10 accounts; whether good cause exists for any such arrangements to be  
11 discontinued; and why such arrangements should not be continued or  
12 created in lieu of a guardianship;

13 (f) To provide the court with a written report which shall include  
14 the following:

15 (i) A description of the nature, cause, and degree of incapacity,  
16 and the basis upon which this judgment was made;

17 (ii) A description of the needs of the incapacitated person for  
18 care and treatment, the probable residential requirements of the  
19 alleged incapacitated person and the basis upon which these findings  
20 were made;

21 (iii) An evaluation of the appropriateness of the guardian or  
22 limited guardian whose appointment is sought and a description of the  
23 steps the proposed guardian has taken or intends to take to identify  
24 and meet current and emerging needs of the incapacitated person;

25 (iv) A description of any alternative arrangements previously made  
26 by the alleged incapacitated person or which could be made, and whether  
27 and to what extent such alternatives should be used in lieu of a  
28 guardianship, and if the guardian ad litem is recommending  
29 discontinuation of any such arrangements, specific findings as to why  
30 such arrangements are contrary to the best interest of the alleged  
31 incapacitated person;

32 (v) A description of the abilities of the alleged incapacitated  
33 person and a recommendation as to whether a guardian or limited  
34 guardian should be appointed. If appointment of a limited guardian is  
35 recommended, the guardian ad litem shall recommend the specific areas  
36 of authority the limited guardian should have and the limitations and  
37 disabilities to be placed on the incapacitated person;

1 (vi) An evaluation of the person's mental ability to rationally  
2 exercise the right to vote and the basis upon which the evaluation is  
3 made;

4 (vii) Any expression of approval or disapproval made by the alleged  
5 incapacitated person concerning the proposed guardian or limited  
6 guardian or guardianship or limited guardianship;

7 (viii) Identification of persons with significant interest in the  
8 welfare of the alleged incapacitated person who should be advised of  
9 their right to request special notice of proceedings pursuant to RCW  
10 11.92.150; and

11 (ix) Unless independent counsel has appeared for the alleged  
12 incapacitated person, an explanation of how the alleged incapacitated  
13 person responded to the advice of the right to jury trial, to  
14 independent counsel and to be present at the hearing on the petition.

15 Within forty-five days after notice of commencement of the  
16 guardianship proceeding has been served upon the guardian ad litem, and  
17 at least fifteen days before the hearing on the petition, unless an  
18 extension or reduction of time has been granted by the court for good  
19 cause, the guardian ad litem shall file its report and send a copy to  
20 the alleged incapacitated person and his or her counsel, spouse or  
21 domestic partner, all children not residing with a notified person,  
22 those persons described in (f)(viii) of this subsection, and persons  
23 who have filed a request for special notice pursuant to RCW 11.92.150.  
24 If the guardian ad litem needs additional time to finalize his or her  
25 report, then the guardian ad litem shall petition the court for a  
26 postponement of the hearing or, with the consent of all other parties,  
27 an extension or reduction of time for filing the report. If the  
28 hearing does not occur within sixty days of filing the petition, then  
29 upon the two-month anniversary of filing the petition and on or before  
30 the same day of each following month until the hearing, the guardian ad  
31 litem shall file interim reports summarizing his or her activities on  
32 the proceeding during that time period as well as fees and costs  
33 incurred;

34 (g) To advise the court of the need for appointment of counsel for  
35 the alleged incapacitated person within five court days after the  
36 meeting described in (a) of this subsection unless (i) counsel has  
37 appeared, (ii) the alleged incapacitated person affirmatively  
38 communicated a wish not to be represented by counsel after being

1 advised of the right to representation and of the conditions under  
2 which court-provided counsel may be available, or (iii) the alleged  
3 incapacitated person was unable to communicate at all on the subject,  
4 and the guardian ad litem is satisfied that the alleged incapacitated  
5 person does not affirmatively desire to be represented by counsel.

6 (6) If the petition is brought by an interested person or entity  
7 requesting the appointment of some other qualified person or entity and  
8 a prospective guardian or limited guardian cannot be found, the court  
9 shall order the guardian ad litem to investigate the availability of a  
10 possible guardian or limited guardian and to include the findings in a  
11 report to the court pursuant to subsection (5)(f) of this section.

12 (7) The parties to the proceeding may file responses to the  
13 guardian ad litem report with the court and deliver such responses to  
14 the other parties and the guardian ad litem at any time up to the  
15 second day prior to the hearing. If a guardian ad litem fails to file  
16 his or her report in a timely manner, the hearing shall be continued to  
17 give the court and the parties at least fifteen days before the hearing  
18 to review the report. At any time during the proceeding upon motion of  
19 any party or on the court's own motion, the court may remove the  
20 guardian ad litem for failure to perform his or her duties as specified  
21 in this chapter, provided that the guardian ad litem shall have five  
22 days' notice of any motion to remove before the court enters such  
23 order. In addition, the court in its discretion may reduce a guardian  
24 ad litem's fee for failure to carry out his or her duties.

25 (8) The court appointed guardian ad litem shall have the authority,  
26 in the event that the alleged incapacitated person is in need of  
27 emergency life-saving medical services, and is unable to consent to  
28 such medical services due to incapacity pending the hearing on the  
29 petition to give consent for such emergency life-saving medical  
30 services on behalf of the alleged incapacitated person.

31 (9) The court-appointed guardian ad litem shall have the authority  
32 to move for temporary relief under chapter 7.40 RCW to protect the  
33 alleged incapacitated person from abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
34 exploitation, as those terms are defined in RCW 74.34.020, or to  
35 address any other emergency needs of the alleged incapacitated person.  
36 Any alternative arrangement executed before filing the petition for  
37 guardianship shall remain effective unless the court grants the relief  
38 requested under chapter 7.40 RCW, or unless, following notice and a

1 hearing at which all parties directly affected by the arrangement are  
2 present, the court finds that the alternative arrangement should not  
3 remain effective.

4 (10) The guardian ad litem shall receive a fee determined by the  
5 court. The fee shall be charged to the alleged incapacitated person  
6 unless the court finds that such payment would result in substantial  
7 hardship upon such person, in which case the county shall be  
8 responsible for such costs: PROVIDED, That the court may charge such  
9 fee to the petitioner, the alleged incapacitated person, or any person  
10 who has appeared in the action; or may allocate the fee, as it deems  
11 just. If the petition is found to be frivolous or not brought in good  
12 faith, the guardian ad litem fee shall be charged to the petitioner.  
13 The court shall not be required to provide for the payment of a fee to  
14 any salaried employee of a public agency.

15 (11) Upon the presentation of the guardian ad litem report and the  
16 entry of an order either dismissing the petition for appointment of  
17 guardian or limited guardian or appointing a guardian or limited  
18 guardian, the guardian ad litem shall be dismissed and shall have no  
19 further duties or obligations unless otherwise ordered by the court.  
20 If the court orders the guardian ad litem to perform further duties or  
21 obligations, they shall not be performed at county expense.

22 (12) The guardian ad litem shall appear in person at all hearings  
23 on the petition unless all parties provide a written waiver of the  
24 requirement to appear.

25 (13) At any hearing the court may consider whether any person who  
26 makes decisions regarding the alleged incapacitated person or estate  
27 has breached a statutory or fiduciary duty.

28 **Sec. 805.** RCW 11.88.125 and 1991 c 289 s 8 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The person appointed by the court as either guardian or limited  
31 guardian of the person and/or estate of an incapacitated person, shall  
32 file in writing with the court, a notice designating a standby limited  
33 guardian or guardian to serve as limited guardian or guardian at the  
34 death or legal incapacity of the court-appointed guardian or limited  
35 guardian. The notice shall state the name, address, zip code, and  
36 telephone number of the designated standby or limited guardian. Notice  
37 of the guardian's designation of the standby guardian shall be given to



1 the standby guardian, the incapacitated person and his or her spouse or  
2 domestic partner and adult children, any facility in which the  
3 incapacitated person resides, and any person entitled to special notice  
4 under RCW 11.92.150 or any person entitled to receive pleadings  
5 pursuant to RCW 11.88.095(2)(g). Such standby guardian or limited  
6 guardian shall have all the powers, duties, and obligations of the  
7 regularly appointed guardian or limited guardian and in addition shall,  
8 within a period of thirty days from the death or adjudication of  
9 incapacity of the regularly appointed guardian or limited guardian,  
10 file with the superior court in the county in which the guardianship or  
11 limited guardianship is then being administered, a petition for  
12 appointment of a substitute guardian or limited guardian. Upon the  
13 court's appointment of a new, substitute guardian or limited guardian,  
14 the standby guardian or limited guardian shall make an accounting and  
15 report to be approved by the court, and upon approval of the court, the  
16 standby guardian or limited guardian shall be released from all duties  
17 and obligations arising from or out of the guardianship or limited  
18 guardianship.

19 (2) Letters of guardianship shall be issued to the standby guardian  
20 or limited guardian upon filing an oath and posting a bond as required  
21 by RCW 11.88.100 as now or hereafter amended. The oath may be filed  
22 prior to the appointed guardian or limited guardian's death. Notice of  
23 such appointment shall be provided to the standby guardian, the  
24 incapacitated person, and any facility in which the incapacitated  
25 person resides. The provisions of RCW 11.88.100 through 11.88.110 as  
26 now or hereafter amended shall apply to standby guardians and limited  
27 guardians.

28 (3) In addition to the powers of a standby limited guardian or  
29 guardian as noted in subsection (1) of this section, the standby  
30 limited guardian or guardian shall have the authority to provide  
31 timely, informed consent to necessary medical procedures, as authorized  
32 in RCW 11.92.040 as now or hereafter amended, if the guardian or  
33 limited guardian cannot be located within four hours after the need for  
34 such consent arises.

35 **Sec. 806.** RCW 11.76.080 and 1997 c 252 s 71 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 If there be any alleged incapacitated person as defined in RCW  
2 11.88.010 interested in the estate who has no legally appointed  
3 guardian or limited guardian, the court:

4 (1) At any stage of the proceeding in its discretion and for such  
5 purpose or purposes as it shall indicate, may appoint; and

6 (2) For hearings held under RCW 11.54.010, 11.68.041, 11.68.100,  
7 and 11.76.050 or for entry of an order adjudicating testacy or  
8 intestacy and heirship when no personal representative is appointed to  
9 administer the estate of the decedent, shall appoint some disinterested  
10 person as guardian ad litem to represent the allegedly incapacitated  
11 person with reference to any petition, proceeding report, or  
12 adjudication of testacy or intestacy without the appointment of a  
13 personal representative to administer the estate of decedent in which  
14 the alleged incapacitated person may have an interest, who, on behalf  
15 of the alleged incapacitated person, may contest the same as any other  
16 person interested might contest it, and who shall be allowed by the  
17 court reasonable compensation for his or her services: PROVIDED,  
18 HOWEVER, That where a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is  
19 the sole beneficiary under the terms of a will, the court may grant a  
20 motion by the personal representative to waive the appointment of a  
21 guardian ad litem for a person who is the minor child of the surviving  
22 spouse or surviving domestic partner and the decedent and who is  
23 incapacitated solely for the reason of his or her being under eighteen  
24 years of age.

25 **Sec. 807.** RCW 11.92.140 and 1999 c 42 s 616 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 The court, upon the petition of a guardian of the estate of an  
28 incapacitated person other than the guardian of a minor, and after such  
29 notice as the court directs and other notice to all persons interested  
30 as required by chapter 11.96A RCW, may authorize the guardian to take  
31 any action, or to apply funds not required for the incapacitated  
32 person's own maintenance and support, in any fashion the court approves  
33 as being in keeping with the incapacitated person's wishes so far as  
34 they can be ascertained and as designed to minimize insofar as possible  
35 current or prospective state or federal income and estate taxes, permit  
36 entitlement under otherwise available federal or state medical or other

1 assistance programs, and to provide for gifts to such charities,  
2 relatives, and friends as would be likely recipients of donations from  
3 the incapacitated person.

4 The action or application of funds may include but shall not be  
5 limited to the making of gifts, to the conveyance or release of the  
6 incapacitated person's contingent and expectant interests in property  
7 including marital or domestic partnership property rights and any right  
8 of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety,  
9 to the exercise or release of the incapacitated person's powers as  
10 donee of a power of appointment, the making of contracts, the creation  
11 of revocable or irrevocable trusts of property of the incapacitated  
12 person's estate which may extend beyond the incapacitated person's  
13 disability or life, the establishment of custodianships for the benefit  
14 of a minor under chapter 11.114 RCW, the Washington uniform transfers  
15 to minors act, the exercise of options of the incapacitated person to  
16 purchase securities or other property, the exercise of the  
17 incapacitated person's right to elect options and to change  
18 beneficiaries under insurance and annuity policies and the surrendering  
19 of policies for their cash value, the exercise of the incapacitated  
20 person's right to any elective share in the estate of the incapacitated  
21 person's deceased spouse or deceased domestic partner, and the  
22 renunciation or disclaimer of any interest acquired by testate or  
23 intestate succession or by inter vivos transfer.

24 The guardian in the petition shall briefly outline the action or  
25 application of funds for which approval is sought, the results expected  
26 to be accomplished thereby and the savings expected to accrue. The  
27 proposed action or application of funds may include gifts of the  
28 incapacitated person's personal or real property. Gifts may be for the  
29 benefit of prospective legatees, devisees, or heirs apparent of the  
30 incapacitated person, or may be made to individuals or charities in  
31 which the incapacitated person is believed to have an interest. Gifts  
32 may or may not, in the discretion of the court, be treated as  
33 advancements to donees who would otherwise inherit property from the  
34 incapacitated person under the incapacitated person's will or under the  
35 laws of descent and distribution. The guardian shall also indicate in  
36 the petition that any planned disposition is consistent with the  
37 intentions of the incapacitated person insofar as the intentions can be  
38 ascertained, and if the incapacitated person's intentions cannot be

1 ascertained, the incapacitated person will be presumed to favor  
2 reduction in the incidence of the various forms of taxation and the  
3 partial distribution of the incapacitated person's estate as provided  
4 in this section. The guardian shall not, however, be required to  
5 include as a beneficiary any person whom there is reason to believe  
6 would be excluded by the incapacitated person. No guardian may be  
7 required to file a petition as provided in this section, and a failure  
8 or refusal to so petition the court does not constitute a breach of the  
9 guardian's fiduciary duties.

10 **Sec. 808.** RCW 11.94.090 and 2001 c 203 s 3 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) A person designated in RCW 11.94.100 may file a petition  
13 requesting that the court:

14 (a) Determine whether the power of attorney is in effect or has  
15 terminated;

16 (b) Compel the attorney-in-fact to submit the attorney-in-fact's  
17 accounts or report the attorney-in-fact's acts as attorney-in-fact to  
18 the principal, the spouse or domestic partner of the principal, the  
19 guardian of the person or the estate of the principal, or to any other  
20 person required by the court in its discretion, if the attorney-in-fact  
21 has failed to submit an accounting or report within sixty days after  
22 written request from the person filing the petition, however, a  
23 government agency charged with the protection of vulnerable adults may  
24 file a petition upon the attorney-in-fact's refusal or failure to  
25 submit an accounting upon written request and shall not be required to  
26 wait sixty days;

27 (c) Ratify past acts or approve proposed acts of the attorney-in-  
28 fact;

29 (d) Order the attorney-in-fact to exercise or refrain from  
30 exercising authority in a power of attorney in a particular manner or  
31 for a particular purpose;

32 (e) Modify the authority of an attorney-in-fact under a power of  
33 attorney;

34 (f) Remove the attorney-in-fact on a determination by the court of  
35 both of the following:

36 (i) The attorney-in-fact has violated or is unfit to perform the  
37 fiduciary duties under the power of attorney; and

1 (ii) The removal of the attorney-in-fact is in the best interest of  
2 the principal;

3 (g) Approve the resignation of the attorney-in-fact and approve the  
4 final accountings of the resigning attorney-in-fact if submitted,  
5 subject to any orders the court determines are necessary to protect the  
6 principal's interests;

7 (h) Confirm the authority of a successor attorney-in-fact to act  
8 under a power of attorney upon removal or resignation of the previous  
9 attorney-in-fact;

10 (i) Compel a third person to honor the authority of an attorney-in-  
11 fact, provided that a third person may not be compelled to honor the  
12 agent's authority if the principal could not compel the third person to  
13 act in the same circumstances;

14 (j) Order the attorney-in-fact to furnish a bond in an amount the  
15 court determines to be appropriate.

16 (2) The petition shall contain a statement identifying the  
17 principal's known immediate family members, and any other persons known  
18 to petitioner to be interested in the principal's welfare or the  
19 principal's estate, stating which of said persons have an interest in  
20 the action requested in the petition and explaining the determination  
21 of who is interested in the petition.

22 **Sec. 809.** RCW 11.94.100 and 2001 c 203 s 4 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (1) A petition may be filed under RCW 11.94.090 by any of the  
25 following persons:

26 (a) The attorney-in-fact;

27 (b) The principal;

28 (c) The spouse or domestic partner of the principal;

29 (d) The guardian of the estate or person of the principal; or

30 (e) Any other interested person, as long as the person demonstrates  
31 to the court's satisfaction that the person is interested in the  
32 welfare of the principal and has a good faith belief that the court's  
33 intervention is necessary, and that the principal is incapacitated at  
34 the time of filing the petition or otherwise unable to protect his or  
35 her own interests.

36 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 11.94.080, the principal may specify in the

1 power of attorney by name certain persons who shall have no authority  
2 to bring a petition under RCW 11.94.090 with respect to the power of  
3 attorney. This provision is enforceable:

4 (a) If the person so named is not at the time of filing the  
5 petition the guardian of the principal;

6 (b) If at the time of signing the power of attorney the principal  
7 was represented by an attorney who advised the principal regarding the  
8 power of attorney and who signed a certificate at the time of execution  
9 of the power of attorney, stating that the attorney has advised the  
10 principal concerning his or her rights, the applicable law, and the  
11 effect and consequences of executing the power of attorney; or

12 (c) If (a) and (b) of this subsection do not apply, unless the  
13 person so named can establish that the principal was unduly influenced  
14 by another or under mistaken beliefs when excluding the person from the  
15 petition process, or unless the person named is a government agency  
16 charged with protection of vulnerable adults.

17 **Sec. 810.** RCW 11.94.140 and 2001 c 203 s 8 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The following persons are entitled to notice of hearing on any  
20 petition under RCW 11.94.090:

- 21 (a) The principal;
- 22 (b) The principal's spouse or domestic partner;
- 23 (c) The attorney-in-fact;
- 24 (d) The guardian of the estate or person of the principal;
- 25 (e) Any other person identified in the petition as being interested  
26 in the action requested in the petition, or identified by the court as  
27 having a right to notice of the hearing. If a person would be excluded  
28 from bringing a petition under RCW 11.94.100(2), then that person is  
29 not entitled to notice of the hearing.

30 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if the  
31 whereabouts of the principal are unknown or the principal is otherwise  
32 unavailable to receive notice, the court may waive the requirement of  
33 notice to the principal, and if the principal's spouse is similarly  
34 unavailable to receive notice, the court may waive the requirement of  
35 notice to the principal's spouse.

36 (3) Notice must be given as required under chapter 11.96A RCW,

1 except that the parties entitled to notice shall be determined under  
2 this section.

3 **PART IX - PROBATE AND TRUST LAW**

4 **Sec. 901.** RCW 11.02.005 and 2007 c 475 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 When used in this title, unless otherwise required from the  
7 context:

8 (1) "Personal representative" includes executor, administrator,  
9 special administrator, and guardian or limited guardian and special  
10 representative.

11 (2) "Net estate" refers to the real and personal property of a  
12 decedent exclusive of homestead rights, exempt property, the family  
13 allowance and enforceable claims against, and debts of, the deceased or  
14 the estate.

15 (3) "Representation" refers to a method of determining distribution  
16 in which the takers are in unequal degrees of kinship with respect to  
17 a decedent, and is accomplished as follows: After first determining  
18 who, of those entitled to share in the estate, are in the nearest  
19 degree of kinship, the estate is divided into equal shares, the number  
20 of shares being the sum of the number of persons who survive the  
21 decedent who are in the nearest degree of kinship and the number of  
22 persons in the same degree of kinship who died before the decedent but  
23 who left issue surviving the decedent; each share of a deceased person  
24 in the nearest degree shall be divided among those of the deceased  
25 person's issue who survive the decedent and have no ancestor then  
26 living who is in the line of relationship between them and the  
27 decedent, those more remote in degree taking together the share which  
28 their ancestor would have taken had he or she survived the decedent.

29 (4) "Issue" means all the lineal descendants of an individual. An  
30 adopted individual is a lineal descendant of each of his or her  
31 adoptive parents and of all individuals with regard to which each  
32 adoptive parent is a lineal descendant. A child conceived prior to the  
33 death of a parent but born after the death of the deceased parent is  
34 considered to be the surviving issue of the deceased parent for  
35 purposes of this title.

1 (5) "Degree of kinship" means the degree of kinship as computed  
2 according to the rules of the civil law; that is, by counting upward  
3 from the intestate to the nearest common ancestor and then downward to  
4 the relative, the degree of kinship being the sum of these two counts.

5 (6) "Heirs" denotes those persons, including the surviving spouse  
6 or surviving domestic partner, who are entitled under the statutes of  
7 intestate succession to the real and personal property of a decedent on  
8 the decedent's death intestate.

9 (7) "Real estate" includes, except as otherwise specifically  
10 provided herein, all lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and all  
11 rights thereto, and all interest therein possessed and claimed in fee  
12 simple, or for the life of a third person.

13 (8) "Will" means an instrument validly executed as required by RCW  
14 11.12.020.

15 (9) "Codicil" means a will that modifies or partially revokes an  
16 existing earlier will. A codicil need not refer to or be attached to  
17 the earlier will.

18 (10) "Guardian" or "limited guardian" means a personal  
19 representative of the person or estate of an incompetent or disabled  
20 person as defined in RCW 11.88.010 and the term may be used in lieu of  
21 "personal representative" wherever required by context.

22 (11) "Administrator" means a personal representative of the estate  
23 of a decedent and the term may be used in lieu of "personal  
24 representative" wherever required by context.

25 (12) "Executor" means a personal representative of the estate of a  
26 decedent appointed by will and the term may be used in lieu of  
27 "personal representative" wherever required by context.

28 (13) "Special administrator" means a personal representative of the  
29 estate of a decedent appointed for limited purposes and the term may be  
30 used in lieu of "personal representative" wherever required by context.

31 (14) "Trustee" means an original, added, or successor trustee and  
32 includes the state, or any agency thereof, when it is acting as the  
33 trustee of a trust to which chapter 11.98 RCW applies.

34 (15) "Nonprobate asset" means those rights and interests of a  
35 person having beneficial ownership of an asset that pass on the  
36 person's death under a written instrument or arrangement other than the  
37 person's will. "Nonprobate asset" includes, but is not limited to, a  
38 right or interest passing under a joint tenancy with right of



1 survivorship, joint bank account with right of survivorship, payable on  
2 death or trust bank account, transfer on death security or security  
3 account, deed or conveyance if possession has been postponed until the  
4 death of the person, trust of which the person is grantor and that  
5 becomes effective or irrevocable only upon the person's death,  
6 community property agreement, individual retirement account or bond, or  
7 note or other contract the payment or performance of which is affected  
8 by the death of the person. "Nonprobate asset" does not include: A  
9 payable-on-death provision of a life insurance policy, annuity, or  
10 other similar contract, or of an employee benefit plan; a right or  
11 interest passing by descent and distribution under chapter 11.04 RCW;  
12 a right or interest if, before death, the person has irrevocably  
13 transferred the right or interest, the person has waived the power to  
14 transfer it or, in the case of contractual arrangement, the person has  
15 waived the unilateral right to rescind or modify the arrangement; or a  
16 right or interest held by the person solely in a fiduciary capacity.  
17 For the definition of "nonprobate asset" relating to revocation of a  
18 provision for a former spouse upon dissolution of marriage or  
19 declaration of invalidity of marriage, RCW 11.07.010(5) applies. For  
20 the definition of "nonprobate asset" relating to revocation of a  
21 provision for a former spouse upon dissolution of marriage or  
22 declaration of invalidity of marriage, see RCW 11.07.010(5). For the  
23 definition of "nonprobate asset" relating to testamentary disposition  
24 of nonprobate assets, see RCW 11.11.010(7).

25 (16) "Internal Revenue Code" means the United States Internal  
26 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2001.

27 (17) References to "section 2033A" of the Internal Revenue Code in  
28 wills, trust agreements, powers of appointment, beneficiary  
29 designations, and other instruments governed by or subject to this  
30 title shall be deemed to refer to the comparable or corresponding  
31 provisions of section 2057 of the Internal Revenue Code, as added by  
32 section 6006(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring Act of  
33 1998 (H.R. 2676, P.L. 105-206); and references to the section 2033A  
34 "exclusion" shall be deemed to mean the section 2057 deduction.

35 (18) "Surviving spouse" or "surviving domestic partner" does not  
36 include an individual whose marriage to or state registered domestic  
37 partnership with the decedent has been terminated, dissolved, or  
38 invalidated unless, by virtue of a subsequent marriage or state

1 registered domestic partnership, he or she is married to or in a  
2 domestic partnership with the decedent at the time of death. A decree  
3 of separation that does not terminate the status of (~~husband and~~  
4 ~~wife~~) spouses or domestic partners is not a dissolution or  
5 invalidation for purposes of this subsection.

6 Words that import the singular number may also be applied to the  
7 plural of persons and things.

8 Words importing the masculine gender only may be extended to  
9 females also.

10 **Sec. 902.** RCW 11.02.070 and 1998 c 292 s 504 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 Except as provided in RCW 41.04.273 and 11.84.025, upon the death  
13 of a decedent, a one-half share of the community property shall be  
14 confirmed to the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, and  
15 the other one-half share shall be subject to testamentary disposition  
16 by the decedent, or shall descend as provided in chapter 11.04 RCW.  
17 The whole of the community property shall be subject to probate  
18 administration for all purposes of this title, including the payment of  
19 obligations and debts of the community, the award in lieu of homestead,  
20 the allowance for family support, and any other matter for which the  
21 community property would be responsible or liable if the decedent were  
22 living.

23 **Sec. 903.** RCW 11.02.100 and 1990 c 180 s 7 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Shares of record in the name of a (~~married person~~) spouse or  
26 domestic partner may be transferred by such person, such person's agent  
27 or attorney, without the signature of such person's spouse or domestic  
28 partner. All dividends payable upon any shares of a corporation  
29 standing in the name of a (~~married person~~) spouse or domestic  
30 partner, shall be paid to such (~~married person~~) spouse or domestic  
31 partner, such person's agent or attorney, in the same manner as if such  
32 person were unmarried or not in a state registered domestic  
33 partnership, and it shall not be necessary for the other spouse or  
34 domestic partner to join in a receipt therefor; and any proxy or power  
35 given by a (~~married person~~) spouse or domestic partner, touching any

1 shares of any corporation standing in such person's name, shall be  
2 valid and binding without the signature of the other spouse or other  
3 domestic partner.

4 **Sec. 904.** RCW 11.02.120 and 1990 c 180 s 9 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Neither a domestic or foreign corporation or its registrar or  
7 transfer agent shall be liable for transferring or causing to be  
8 transferred on the books of the corporation to or pursuant to the  
9 direction of the surviving spouse (~~((of a deceased husband or wife))~~) or  
10 the surviving domestic partner any share or shares or other securities  
11 theretofore issued by the corporation to the deceased or surviving  
12 spouse or both (~~((of them))~~), or to the deceased or surviving domestic  
13 partner or both, if the corporation or its registrar or transfer agent  
14 shall be provided with the following:

15 (1) A copy of an agreement which shall have been entered into  
16 between the spouses or between the domestic partners pursuant to RCW  
17 26.16.120 and certified by the auditor of the county in this state in  
18 whose office the same shall have been recorded;

19 (2) A certified copy of the death certificate of the deceased  
20 spouse or deceased domestic partner;

21 (3) An affidavit of the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
22 partner that:

23 (a) The shares or other securities constituted community property  
24 of the spouses or the domestic partners at date of death of the  
25 deceased spouse or deceased domestic partner and their disposition is  
26 controlled by the community property agreement;

27 (b) No proceedings have been instituted to contest or set aside or  
28 cancel the agreement; and that

29 (c) The claims of creditors have been paid or provided for.

30 **Sec. 905.** RCW 11.04.095 and 1965 c 145 s 11.04.095 are each  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 If a person dies leaving a surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
33 partner and issue by a former spouse or former domestic partner and  
34 leaving a will whereby all or substantially all of the deceased's  
35 property passes to the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner  
36 or having before death conveyed all or substantially all his or her

1 property to the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, and  
2 afterwards the latter dies without heirs and without disposing of his  
3 or her property by will so that except for this section the same would  
4 all escheat, the issue of the spouse or domestic partner first deceased  
5 who survive the spouse or domestic partner last deceased shall take and  
6 inherit from the spouse or domestic partner last deceased the property  
7 so acquired by will or conveyance or the equivalent thereof in money or  
8 other property; if such issue are all in the same degree of kinship to  
9 the spouse or domestic partner first deceased they shall take equally,  
10 or, if of unequal degree, then those of more remote degree shall take  
11 by representation with respect to such spouse or such domestic partner  
12 first deceased.

13 **Sec. 906.** RCW 11.07.010 and 2007 c 475 s 2 and 2007 c 156 s 13 are  
14 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

15 (1) This section applies to all nonprobate assets, wherever  
16 situated, held at the time of entry of a decree of dissolution of  
17 marriage or state registered domestic partnership or a declaration of  
18 invalidity or certification of termination of a state registered  
19 domestic partnership.

20 (2)(a) If a marriage or state registered domestic partnership is  
21 dissolved or invalidated, or a state registered domestic partnership  
22 terminated, a provision made prior to that event that relates to the  
23 payment or transfer at death of the decedent's interest in a nonprobate  
24 asset in favor of or granting an interest or power to the decedent's  
25 former spouse or state registered domestic partner, is revoked. A  
26 provision affected by this section must be interpreted, and the  
27 nonprobate asset affected passes, as if the former spouse or former  
28 state registered domestic partner, failed to survive the decedent,  
29 having died at the time of entry of the decree of dissolution or  
30 declaration of invalidity or termination of state registered domestic  
31 partnership.

32 (b) This subsection does not apply if and to the extent that:

33 (i) The instrument governing disposition of the nonprobate asset  
34 expressly provides otherwise;

35 (ii) The decree of dissolution, declaration of invalidity, or other  
36 court order requires that the decedent maintain a nonprobate asset for  
37 the benefit of a former spouse or former state registered domestic

1 partner or children of the marriage or domestic partnership, payable on  
2 the decedent's death either outright or in trust, and other nonprobate  
3 assets of the decedent fulfilling such a requirement for the benefit of  
4 the former spouse or former state registered domestic partner or  
5 children of the marriage or domestic partnership do not exist at the  
6 decedent's death;

7 (iii) A court order requires that the decedent maintain a  
8 nonprobate asset for the benefit of another, payable on the decedent's  
9 death either outright or in a trust, and other nonprobate assets of the  
10 decedent fulfilling such a requirement do not exist at the decedent's  
11 death; or

12 (iv) If not for this subsection, the decedent could not have  
13 effected the revocation by unilateral action because of the terms of  
14 the decree, declaration, termination of state registered domestic  
15 partnership, or for any other reason, immediately after the entry of  
16 the decree of dissolution, declaration of invalidity, or termination of  
17 state registered domestic partnership.

18 (3)(a) A payor or other third party in possession or control of a  
19 nonprobate asset at the time of the decedent's death is not liable for  
20 making a payment or transferring an interest in a nonprobate asset to  
21 a decedent's former spouse or state registered domestic partner, whose  
22 interest in the nonprobate asset is revoked under this section, or for  
23 taking another action in reliance on the validity of the instrument  
24 governing disposition of the nonprobate asset, before the payor or  
25 other third party has actual knowledge of the dissolution or other  
26 invalidation of marriage or termination of the state registered  
27 domestic partnership. A payor or other third party is liable for a  
28 payment or transfer made or other action taken after the payor or other  
29 third party has actual knowledge of a revocation under this section.

30 (b) This section does not require a payor or other third party to  
31 pay or transfer a nonprobate asset to a beneficiary designated in a  
32 governing instrument affected by the dissolution or other invalidation  
33 of marriage or termination of state registered domestic partnership, or  
34 to another person claiming an interest in the nonprobate asset, if the  
35 payor or third party has actual knowledge of the existence of a dispute  
36 between the former spouse or former state registered domestic partner,  
37 and the beneficiaries or other persons concerning rights of ownership  
38 of the nonprobate asset as a result of the application of this section

1 among the former spouse or former state registered domestic partner,  
2 and the beneficiaries or among other persons, or if the payor or third  
3 party is otherwise uncertain as to who is entitled to the nonprobate  
4 asset under this section. In such a case, the payor or third party  
5 may, without liability, notify in writing all beneficiaries or other  
6 persons claiming an interest in the nonprobate asset of either the  
7 existence of the dispute or its uncertainty as to who is entitled to  
8 payment or transfer of the nonprobate asset. The payor or third party  
9 may also, without liability, refuse to pay or transfer a nonprobate  
10 asset in such a circumstance to a beneficiary or other person claiming  
11 an interest until the time that either:

12 (i) All beneficiaries and other interested persons claiming an  
13 interest have consented in writing to the payment or transfer; or

14 (ii) The payment or transfer is authorized or directed by a court  
15 of proper jurisdiction.

16 (c) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section and (a)  
17 and (b) of this subsection, a payor or other third party having actual  
18 knowledge of the existence of a dispute between beneficiaries or other  
19 persons concerning rights to a nonprobate asset as a result of the  
20 application of this section may condition the payment or transfer of  
21 the nonprobate asset on execution, in a form and with security  
22 acceptable to the payor or other third party, of a bond in an amount  
23 that is double the fair market value of the nonprobate asset at the  
24 time of the decedent's death or the amount of an adverse claim,  
25 whichever is the lesser, or of a similar instrument to provide security  
26 to the payor or other third party, indemnifying the payor or other  
27 third party for any liability, loss, damage, costs, and expenses for  
28 and on account of payment or transfer of the nonprobate asset.

29 (d) As used in this subsection, "actual knowledge" means, for a  
30 payor or other third party in possession or control of the nonprobate  
31 asset at or following the decedent's death, written notice to the payor  
32 or other third party, or to an officer of a payor or third party in the  
33 course of his or her employment, received after the decedent's death  
34 and within a time that is sufficient to afford the payor or third party  
35 a reasonable opportunity to act upon the knowledge. The notice must  
36 identify the nonprobate asset with reasonable specificity. The notice  
37 also must be sufficient to inform the payor or other third party of the  
38 revocation of the provisions in favor of the decedent's spouse or state

1 registered domestic partner, by reason of the dissolution or  
2 invalidation of marriage or termination of state registered domestic  
3 partnership, or to inform the payor or third party of a dispute  
4 concerning rights to a nonprobate asset as a result of the application  
5 of this section. Receipt of the notice for a period of more than  
6 thirty days is presumed to be received within a time that is sufficient  
7 to afford the payor or third party a reasonable opportunity to act upon  
8 the knowledge, but receipt of the notice for a period of less than five  
9 business days is presumed not to be a sufficient time for these  
10 purposes. These presumptions may be rebutted only by clear and  
11 convincing evidence to the contrary.

12 (4)(a) A person who purchases a nonprobate asset from a former  
13 spouse, former state registered domestic partner, or other person, for  
14 value and without actual knowledge, or who receives from a former  
15 spouse, former state registered domestic partner, or other person  
16 payment or transfer of a nonprobate asset without actual knowledge and  
17 in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation, is  
18 neither obligated under this section to return the payment, property,  
19 or benefit nor is liable under this section for the amount of the  
20 payment or the value of the nonprobate asset. However, a former  
21 spouse, former state registered domestic partner, or other person who,  
22 with actual knowledge, not for value, or not in satisfaction of a  
23 legally enforceable obligation, receives payment or transfer of a  
24 nonprobate asset to which that person is not entitled under this  
25 section is obligated to return the payment or nonprobate asset, or is  
26 personally liable for the amount of the payment or value of the  
27 nonprobate asset, to the person who is entitled to it under this  
28 section.

29 (b) As used in this subsection, "actual knowledge" means, for a  
30 person described in (a) of this subsection who purchases or receives a  
31 nonprobate asset from a former spouse, former state registered domestic  
32 partner, or other person, personal knowledge or possession of documents  
33 relating to the revocation upon dissolution or invalidation of marriage  
34 of provisions relating to the payment or transfer at the decedent's  
35 death of the nonprobate asset, received within a time after the  
36 decedent's death and before the purchase or receipt that is sufficient  
37 to afford the person purchasing or receiving the nonprobate asset  
38 reasonable opportunity to act upon the knowledge. Receipt of the

1 personal knowledge or possession of the documents for a period of more  
2 than thirty days is presumed to be received within a time that is  
3 sufficient to afford the payor or third party a reasonable opportunity  
4 to act upon the knowledge, but receipt of the notice for a period of  
5 less than five business days is presumed not to be a sufficient time  
6 for these purposes. These presumptions may be rebutted only by clear  
7 and convincing evidence to the contrary.

8 (5) As used in this section, "nonprobate asset" means those rights  
9 and interests of a person having beneficial ownership of an asset that  
10 pass on the person's death under only the following written instruments  
11 or arrangements other than the decedent's will:

12 (a) A payable-on-death provision of a life insurance policy,  
13 employee benefit plan, annuity or similar contract, or individual  
14 retirement account, unless provided otherwise by controlling federal  
15 law;

16 (b) A payable-on-death, trust, or joint with right of survivorship  
17 bank account;

18 (c) A trust of which the person is a grantor and that becomes  
19 effective or irrevocable only upon the person's death;

20 (d) Transfer on death beneficiary designations of a transfer on  
21 death or pay on death security, or joint tenancy or joint tenancy with  
22 right of survivorship designations of a security, if such designations  
23 are authorized under Washington law;

24 (e) A transfer on death, pay on death, joint tenancy, or joint  
25 tenancy with right of survivorship brokerage account;

26 (f) Unless otherwise specifically provided therein, a contract  
27 wherein payment or performance under that contract is affected by the  
28 death of the person; or

29 (g) Unless otherwise specifically provided therein, any other  
30 written instrument of transfer, within the meaning of RCW 11.02.091(3),  
31 containing a provision for the nonprobate transfer of an asset at  
32 death.

33 For the general definition in this title of "nonprobate asset," see  
34 RCW 11.02.005(15) and for the definition of "nonprobate asset" relating  
35 to testamentary disposition of nonprobate assets, see RCW 11.11.010(7).  
36 For the purposes of this chapter, a "bank account" includes an account  
37 into or from which cash deposits and withdrawals can be made, and  
38 includes demand deposit accounts, time deposit accounts, money market



1 accounts, or certificates of deposit, maintained at a bank, savings and  
2 loan association, credit union, brokerage house, or similar financial  
3 institution.

4 (6) This section is remedial in nature and applies as of July 25,  
5 1993, to decrees of dissolution and declarations of invalidity entered  
6 after July 24, 1993, and this section applies as of January 1, 1995, to  
7 decrees of dissolution and declarations of invalidity entered before  
8 July 25, 1993.

9 **Sec. 907.** RCW 11.08.300 and 1990 c 225 s 3 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 Escheat property may be transferred to the department of revenue  
12 under the provisions of RCW 11.62.005 through 11.62.020. The  
13 department of revenue shall furnish proof of death and an affidavit  
14 made by the department which meets the requirements of RCW 11.62.010 to  
15 any person who is indebted to or has possession of any personal  
16 property belonging to the decedent or to the decedent and his or her  
17 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner as a community, which  
18 debt or personal property is an asset which is subject to probate.  
19 Upon receipt of such proof of death and affidavit, the person shall pay  
20 the indebtedness or deliver the personal property, or as much of either  
21 as is claimed, to the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 11.62.010.

22 The department of revenue shall file a copy of its affidavit made  
23 pursuant to chapter 11.62 RCW with the clerk of the court where any  
24 probate administration of the decedent has been commenced, or, if no  
25 probate administration has been commenced, then with the clerk of the  
26 court of any county provided by law as a place for probate  
27 administration of the estate of such person. The affidavit shall be  
28 indexed under the name of the decedent in the probate index upon  
29 payment of a fee of two dollars. Any claimant to escheated funds shall  
30 have seven years from the filing of the affidavit by the department of  
31 revenue within which to file the claim. The claim shall be filed with  
32 the clerk of the court where the affidavit of the department of revenue  
33 was filed, and a copy served upon the department of revenue, together  
34 with twenty days notice of a hearing to be held thereon, and the  
35 provisions of RCW 11.08.250 through 11.08.280 shall apply.

1           **Sec. 908.** RCW 11.10.010 and 1994 c 221 s 5 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3           (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, property  
4 of a decedent abates, without preference as between real and personal  
5 property, in the following order:

- 6           (a) Intestate property;
- 7           (b) Residuary gifts;
- 8           (c) General gifts;
- 9           (d) Specific gifts.

10           For purposes of abatement a demonstrative gift, defined as a  
11 general gift charged on any specific property or fund, is deemed a  
12 specific gift to the extent of the value of the property or fund on  
13 which it is charged, and a general gift to the extent of a failure or  
14 insufficiency of that property or fund. Abatement within each  
15 classification is in proportion to the amounts of property each of the  
16 beneficiaries would have received if full distribution of the property  
17 had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

18           (2) If the will expresses an order of abatement, or if the  
19 testamentary plan or the express or implied purpose of the devise would  
20 be defeated by the order of abatement stated in subsection (1) of this  
21 section, a gift abates as may be found necessary to give effect to the  
22 intention of the testator.

23           (3) If the subject of a preferred gift is sold, diminished, or  
24 exhausted incident to administration, not including satisfaction of  
25 debts or liabilities according to their community or separate status  
26 under RCW 11.10.030, abatement must be achieved by appropriate  
27 adjustments in, or contribution from, other interests in the remaining  
28 assets.

29           (4) To the extent that the whole of the community property is  
30 subject to abatement, the shares of the decedent and of the surviving  
31 spouse or surviving domestic partner in the community property abate  
32 equally.

33           (5) If required under RCW 11.10.040, nonprobate assets must abate  
34 with those disposed of under the will and passing by intestacy.

35           **Sec. 909.** RCW 11.11.010 and 1998 c 292 s 104 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1)(a) "Actual knowledge" means:

4 (i) For a financial institution, whether acting as personal  
5 representative or otherwise, or other third party in possession or  
6 control of a nonprobate asset, receipt of written notice that: (A)  
7 Complies with RCW 11.11.050; (B) pertains to the testamentary  
8 disposition or ownership of a nonprobate asset in its possession or  
9 control; and (C) is received by the financial institution or third  
10 party after the death of the owner in a time sufficient to afford the  
11 financial institution or third party a reasonable opportunity to act  
12 upon the knowledge; and

13 (ii) For a personal representative that is not a financial  
14 institution, personal knowledge or possession of documents relating to  
15 the testamentary disposition or ownership of a nonprobate asset of the  
16 owner sufficient to afford the personal representative reasonable  
17 opportunity to act upon the knowledge, including reasonable opportunity  
18 for the personal representative to provide the written notice under RCW  
19 11.11.050.

20 (b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, notice of more than  
21 thirty days is presumed to be notice that is sufficient to afford the  
22 party a reasonable opportunity to act upon the knowledge, but notice of  
23 less than five business days is presumed not to be a sufficient notice  
24 for these purposes. These presumptions may be rebutted only by clear  
25 and convincing evidence to the contrary.

26 (2) "Beneficiary" means the person designated to receive a  
27 nonprobate asset upon the death of the owner by means other than the  
28 owner's will.

29 (3) "Broker" means a person defined as a broker or dealer under the  
30 federal securities laws.

31 (4) "Date of will" means, as to any nonprobate asset, the date of  
32 signature of the will or codicil that refers to the asset and disposes  
33 of it.

34 (5) "Designate" means a written means by which the owner selects a  
35 beneficiary, including but not limited to instruments under contractual  
36 arrangements and registration of accounts, and "designation" means the  
37 selection.

1 (6) "Financial institution" means: A bank, trust company, mutual  
2 savings bank, savings and loan association, credit union, broker, or  
3 issuer of stock or its transfer agent.

4 (7)(a) "Nonprobate asset" means a nonprobate asset within the  
5 meaning of RCW 11.02.005, but excluding the following:

6 (i) A right or interest in real property passing under a joint  
7 tenancy with right of survivorship;

8 (ii) A deed or conveyance for which possession has been postponed  
9 until the death of the owner;

10 (iii) A right or interest passing under a community property  
11 agreement; and

12 (iv) An individual retirement account or bond.

13 (b) For the definition of "nonprobate asset" relating to revocation  
14 of a provision for a former spouse or former domestic partner upon  
15 dissolution of marriage or state registered domestic partnership or  
16 declaration of invalidity of marriage or state registered domestic  
17 partnership, see RCW 11.07.010(5).

18 (8) "Owner" means a person who, during life, has beneficial  
19 ownership of the nonprobate asset.

20 (9) "Request" means a request by the beneficiary for transfer of a  
21 nonprobate asset after the death of the owner, if it complies with all  
22 conditions of the arrangement, including reasonable special  
23 requirements concerning necessary signatures and regulations of the  
24 financial institution or other third party, or by the personal  
25 representative of the owner's estate or the testamentary beneficiary,  
26 if it complies with the owner's will and any additional conditions of  
27 the financial institution or third party for such transfer.

28 (10) "Testamentary beneficiary" means a person named under the  
29 owner's will to receive a nonprobate asset under this chapter,  
30 including but not limited to the trustee of a testamentary trust.

31 (11) "Third party" means a person, including a financial  
32 institution, having possession of or control over a nonprobate asset at  
33 the death of the owner, including the trustee of a revocable living  
34 trust and surviving joint tenant or tenants.

35 **Sec. 910.** RCW 11.12.051 and 1994 c 221 s 11 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) If, after making a will, the testator's marriage or domestic

1 partnership is dissolved ((or)), invalidated, or terminated, all  
2 provisions in the will in favor of or granting any interest or power to  
3 the testator's former spouse or former domestic partner are revoked,  
4 unless the will expressly provides otherwise. Provisions affected by  
5 this section must be interpreted, and property affected passes, as if  
6 the former spouse or former domestic partner failed to survive the  
7 testator, having died at the time of entry of the decree of dissolution  
8 or declaration of invalidity. Provisions revoked by this section are  
9 revived by the testator's remarriage to the former spouse or  
10 reregistration of the domestic partnership with the former domestic  
11 partner. Revocation of certain nonprobate transfers is provided under  
12 RCW 11.07.010.

13 (2) This section is remedial in nature and applies to decrees of  
14 dissolution and declarations of invalidity entered before, on, or after  
15 January 1, 1995.

16 **Sec. 911.** RCW 11.12.095 and 1994 c 221 s 10 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) If a will fails to name or provide for a spouse or domestic  
19 partner of the decedent whom the decedent marries or enters into a  
20 domestic partnership after the will's execution and who survives the  
21 decedent, referred to in this section as an "omitted spouse" or  
22 "omitted domestic partner," the spouse or domestic partner must receive  
23 a portion of the decedent's estate as provided in subsection (3) of  
24 this section, unless it appears either from the will or from other  
25 clear and convincing evidence that the failure was intentional.

26 (2) In determining whether an omitted spouse or omitted domestic  
27 partner has been named or provided for, the following rules apply:

28 (a) A spouse or domestic partner identified in a will by name is  
29 considered named whether identified as a spouse or domestic partner or  
30 in any other manner.

31 (b) A reference in a will to the decedent's future spouse or  
32 spouses or future domestic partner or partners, or words of similar  
33 import, constitutes a naming of a spouse or domestic partner whom the  
34 decedent later marries or with whom the decedent enters into a domestic  
35 partnership. A reference to another class such as the decedent's heirs  
36 or family does not constitute a naming of a spouse or domestic partner  
37 who falls within the class.

1 (c) A nominal interest in an estate does not constitute a provision  
2 for a spouse or domestic partner receiving the interest.

3 (3) The omitted spouse or omitted domestic partner must receive an  
4 amount equal in value to that which the spouse or domestic partner  
5 would have received under RCW 11.04.015 if the decedent had died  
6 intestate, unless the court determines on the basis of clear and  
7 convincing evidence that a smaller share, including no share at all, is  
8 more in keeping with the decedent's intent. In making the  
9 determination the court may consider, among other things, the spouse's  
10 or domestic partner's property interests under applicable community  
11 property or quasi-community property laws, the various elements of the  
12 decedent's dispositive scheme, and a marriage settlement or settlement  
13 in a domestic partnership or other provision and provisions for the  
14 omitted spouse or omitted domestic partner outside the decedent's will.

15 (4) In satisfying a share provided by this section, the bequests  
16 made by the will abate as provided in chapter 11.10 RCW.

17 **Sec. 912.** RCW 11.12.180 and 1994 c 221 s 17 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 The Rule in Shelley's Case is abolished as a rule of law and as a  
20 rule of construction. If an applicable statute or a governing  
21 instrument calls for a future distribution to or creates a future  
22 interest in a designated individual's "heirs," "heirs at law," "next of  
23 kin," "relatives," or "family," or language of similar import, the  
24 property passes to those persons, including the state under chapter  
25 11.08 RCW, that would succeed to the designated individual's estate  
26 under chapter 11.04 RCW. The property must pass to those persons as if  
27 the designated individual had died when the distribution or transfer of  
28 the future interest was to take effect in possession or enjoyment. For  
29 purposes of this section and RCW 11.12.185, the designated individual's  
30 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is deemed to be an heir,  
31 regardless of whether the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
32 partner has remarried or entered into a subsequent domestic  
33 partnership.

34 **Sec. 913.** RCW 11.28.030 and 1965 c 145 s 11.28.030 are each  
35 amended to read as follows:

36 A surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner shall be entitled

1 to administer upon the community property, notwithstanding any  
2 provisions of the will to the contrary, if the court find such spouse  
3 or such domestic partner to be otherwise qualified; but if such  
4 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner do not make application  
5 for such appointment within forty days immediately following the death  
6 of the deceased spouse or deceased domestic partner, he or she shall be  
7 considered as having waived his or her right to administer upon such  
8 community property. If any person, other than the surviving spouse or  
9 surviving domestic partner, make application for letters testamentary  
10 on such property, prior to the expiration of such forty days, then the  
11 court, before making any such appointment, shall require notice of such  
12 application to be given the said surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
13 partner, for such time and in such manner as the court may determine,  
14 unless such applicant show to the satisfaction of the court that there  
15 is no surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner or that he or she  
16 has in writing waived the right to administer upon such community  
17 property.

18 **Sec. 914.** RCW 11.28.131 and 1974 ex.s. c 117 s 44 are each amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 When a petition for general letters of administration or for  
21 letters of administration with the will annexed shall be filed, the  
22 matter may (~~(to be)~~) be heard forthwith, appointment made and letters of  
23 administration issued: PROVIDED, That if there be a surviving spouse  
24 or surviving domestic partner and a petition is presented by anyone  
25 other than the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, or any  
26 person designated by the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner  
27 to serve as personal representative on his or her behalf, notice to the  
28 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner shall be given of the  
29 time and place of such hearing at least ten days before the hearing,  
30 unless the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner shall waive  
31 notice of the hearing in writing filed in the cause.

32 **Sec. 915.** RCW 11.28.185 and 1977 ex.s. c 234 s 5 are each amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 When the terms of the decedent's will manifest an intent that the  
35 personal representative appointed to administer the estate shall not be  
36 required to furnish bond or other security, or when the personal

1 representative is the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of  
2 the decedent and it appears to the court that the entire estate, after  
3 provision for expenses and claims of creditors, will be distributable  
4 to such spouse or surviving domestic partner, then such personal  
5 representative shall not be required to give bond or other security as  
6 a condition of appointment. In all cases where a bank or trust company  
7 authorized to act as personal representative is appointed as personal  
8 representative, no bond shall be required. In all other cases, unless  
9 waived by the court, the personal representative shall give such bond  
10 or other security, in such amount and with such surety or sureties, as  
11 the court may direct.

12 Every person required to furnish bond must, before receiving  
13 letters testamentary or of administration, execute a bond to the state  
14 of Washington conditioned that the personal representative shall  
15 faithfully execute the duty of the trust according to law.

16 The court may at any time after appointment of the personal  
17 representative require said personal representative to give a bond or  
18 additional bond, the same to be conditioned and to be approved as  
19 provided in this section; or the court may allow a reduction of the  
20 bond upon a proper showing.

21 In lieu of bond, the court may in its discretion, substitute other  
22 security or financial arrangements, such as provided under RCW  
23 11.88.105, or as the court may deem adequate to protect the assets of  
24 the estate.

25 **Sec. 916.** RCW 11.54.010 and 1997 c 252 s 48 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (1) Subject to RCW 11.54.030, the surviving spouse or surviving  
28 domestic partner of a decedent may petition the court for an award from  
29 the property of the decedent. If the decedent is survived by children  
30 of the decedent who are not also the children of the surviving spouse  
31 or surviving domestic partner, on petition of such a child the court  
32 may divide the award between the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
33 partner and all or any of such children as it deems appropriate. If  
34 there is not a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, the  
35 minor children of the decedent may petition for an award.

36 (2) The award may be made from either the community property or



1 separate property of the decedent. Unless otherwise ordered by the  
2 court, the probate and nonprobate assets of the decedent abate in  
3 accordance with chapter 11.10 RCW in satisfaction of the award.

4 (3) The award may be made whether or not probate proceedings have  
5 been commenced in the state of Washington. The court may not make this  
6 award unless the petition for the award is filed before the earliest  
7 of:

8 (a) Eighteen months from the date of the decedent's death if within  
9 twelve months of the decedent's death either:

10 (i) A personal representative has been appointed; or

11 (ii) A notice agent has filed a declaration and oath as required in  
12 RCW 11.42.010(3)(a)(ii); or

13 (b) The termination of any probate proceeding for the decedent's  
14 estate that has been commenced in the state of Washington; or

15 (c) Six years from the date of the death of the decedent.

16 **Sec. 917.** RCW 11.54.020 and 1997 c 252 s 49 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 The amount of the basic award shall be the amount specified in RCW  
19 6.13.030(2) with regard to lands. If an award is divided between a  
20 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner and the decedent's  
21 children who are not the children of the surviving spouse or surviving  
22 domestic partner, the aggregate amount awarded to all the claimants  
23 under this section shall be the amount specified in RCW 6.13.030(2)  
24 with respect to lands. The amount of the basic award may be increased  
25 or decreased in accordance with RCW 11.54.040 and 11.54.050.

26 **Sec. 918.** RCW 11.54.030 and 1997 c 252 s 50 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The court may not make an award unless the court finds that the  
29 funeral expenses, expenses of last sickness, and expenses of  
30 administration have been paid or provided for.

31 (2) The court may not make an award to a surviving spouse or  
32 surviving domestic partner or child who has participated, either as a  
33 principal or as an accessory before the fact, in the willful and  
34 unlawful killing of the decedent.

1       **Sec. 919.** RCW 11.54.040 and 1997 c 252 s 51 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) If it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the court with  
4 clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that a claimant's present and  
5 reasonably anticipated future needs during the pendency of any probate  
6 proceedings in the state of Washington with respect to basic  
7 maintenance and support will not otherwise be provided for from other  
8 resources, and that the award would not be inconsistent with the  
9 decedent's intentions, the amount of the award may be increased in an  
10 amount the court determines to be appropriate.

11       (2) In determining the needs of the claimant, the court shall  
12 consider, without limitation, the resources available to the claimant  
13 and the claimant's dependents, and the resources reasonably expected to  
14 be available to the claimant and the claimant's dependents during the  
15 pendency of the probate, including income related to present or future  
16 employment and benefits flowing from the decedent's probate and  
17 nonprobate estate.

18       (3) In determining the intentions of the decedent, the court shall  
19 consider, without limitation:

20       (a) Provisions made for the claimant by the decedent under the  
21 terms of the decedent's will or otherwise;

22       (b) Provisions made for third parties or other entities under the  
23 decedent's will or otherwise that would be affected by an increased  
24 award;

25       (c) If the claimant is the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
26 partner, the duration and status of the marriage or the state  
27 registered domestic partnership of the decedent to the claimant at the  
28 time of the decedent's death;

29       (d) The effect of any award on the availability of any other  
30 resources or benefits to the claimant;

31       (e) The size and nature of the decedent's estate; and

32       (f) Oral or written statements made by the decedent that are  
33 otherwise admissible as evidence.

34       The fact that the decedent has named beneficiaries other than the  
35 claimant as recipients of the decedent's estate is not of itself  
36 adequate to evidence such an intent as would prevent the award of an  
37 amount in excess of that provided for in RCW 6.13.030(2) with respect  
38 to lands.

1 (4)(a) A petition for an increased award may only be made if a  
2 petition for an award has been granted under RCW 11.54.010. The  
3 request for an increased award may be made in conjunction with the  
4 petition for an award under RCW 11.54.010.

5 (b) Subject to (a) of this subsection, a request for an increased  
6 award may be made at any time during the pendency of the probate  
7 proceedings. A request to modify an increased award may also be made  
8 at any time during the pendency of the probate proceedings by a person  
9 having an interest in the decedent's estate that will be directly  
10 affected by the requested modification.

11 **Sec. 920.** RCW 11.54.050 and 1997 c 252 s 52 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The court may decrease the amount of the award below the amount  
14 provided in RCW 11.54.020 in the exercise of its discretion if the  
15 recipient is entitled to receive probate or nonprobate property,  
16 including insurance, by reason of the death of the decedent. In such  
17 a case the award must be decreased by no more than the value of such  
18 other property as is received by reason of the death of the decedent.  
19 The court shall consider the factors presented in RCW 11.54.040(2) in  
20 determining the propriety of the award and the proper amount of the  
21 award, if any.

22 (2) An award to a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is  
23 also discretionary and the amount otherwise allowable may be reduced  
24 if: (a) The decedent is survived by children who are not the children  
25 of the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner and the award  
26 would decrease amounts otherwise distributable to such children; or (b)  
27 the award would have the effect of reducing amounts otherwise  
28 distributable to any of the decedent's minor children. In either case  
29 the court shall consider the factors presented in RCW 11.54.040 (2) and  
30 (3) and whether the needs of the minor children with respect to basic  
31 maintenance and support are and will be adequately provided for, both  
32 during and after the pendency of any probate proceedings if such  
33 proceedings are pending, considering support from any source, including  
34 support from the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner.

35 **Sec. 921.** RCW 11.54.070 and 1998 c 292 s 201 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 (1) Except as provided in RCW 11.54.060(2), property awarded and  
2 cash paid under this chapter is immune from all debts, including  
3 judgments and judgment liens, of the decedent and of the surviving  
4 spouse or surviving domestic partner existing at the time of death.

5 (2) Both the decedent's and the surviving spouse's or surviving  
6 domestic partner's interests in any community property awarded to the  
7 spouse or domestic partner under this chapter are immune from the  
8 claims of creditors.

9 **Sec. 922.** RCW 11.62.005 and 2006 c 360 s 15 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the  
12 meanings indicated.

13 (1) "Personal property" shall include any tangible personal  
14 property, any instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, chose in  
15 action, license or ownership, any debt or any other intangible  
16 property.

17 (2)(a) "Successor" and "successors" shall mean (subject to  
18 subsection (2)(b) of this section):

19 (i) That person or those persons who are entitled to the claimed  
20 property pursuant to the terms and provisions of the last will and  
21 testament of the decedent or by virtue of the laws of intestate  
22 succession contained in this title; and/or

23 (ii) The surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of the  
24 decedent to the extent that the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
25 partner is entitled to the property claimed as his or her undivided  
26 one-half interest in the community property of said spouse or said  
27 domestic partner and the decedent; and/or

28 (iii) The department of social and health services, to the extent  
29 of funds expended or paid, in the case of claims provided under RCW  
30 43.20B.080; and/or

31 (iv) This state, in the case of escheat property.

32 (b) Any person claiming to be a successor solely by reason of being  
33 a creditor of the decedent or of the decedent's estate, except for the  
34 state as set forth in (a)(iii) and (iv) of this subsection, shall be  
35 excluded from the definition of "successor".

36 (3) "Person" shall mean any individual or organization,  
37 specifically including but not limited to a bank, credit union,

1 brokerage firm or stock transfer agent, corporation, government or  
2 governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust,  
3 partnership or association, two or more persons having a joint or  
4 common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity.

5 **Sec. 923.** RCW 11.62.010 and 2006 c 360 s 16 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) At any time after forty days from the date of a decedent's  
8 death, any person who is indebted to or who has possession of any  
9 personal property belonging to the decedent or to the decedent and his  
10 or her surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner as a community,  
11 which debt or personal property is an asset which is subject to  
12 probate, shall pay such indebtedness or deliver such personal property,  
13 or so much of either as is claimed, to a person claiming to be a  
14 successor of the decedent upon receipt of proof of death and of an  
15 affidavit made by said person which meets the requirements of  
16 subsection (2) of this section.

17 (2) An affidavit which is to be made pursuant to this section shall  
18 state:

19 (a) The claiming successor's name and address, and that the  
20 claiming successor is a "successor" as defined in RCW 11.62.005;

21 (b) That the decedent was a resident of the state of Washington on  
22 the date of his or her death;

23 (c) That the value of the decedent's entire estate subject to  
24 probate, not including the surviving spouse's or surviving domestic  
25 partner's community property interest in any assets which are subject  
26 to probate in the decedent's estate, wherever located, less liens and  
27 encumbrances, does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars;

28 (d) That forty days have elapsed since the death of the decedent;

29 (e) That no application or petition for the appointment of a  
30 personal representative is pending or has been granted in any  
31 jurisdiction;

32 (f) That all debts of the decedent including funeral and burial  
33 expenses have been paid or provided for;

34 (g) A description of the personal property and the portion thereof  
35 claimed, together with a statement that such personal property is  
36 subject to probate;

1 (h) That the claiming successor has given written notice, either by  
2 personal service or by mail, identifying his or her claim, and  
3 describing the property claimed, to all other successors of the  
4 decedent, and that at least ten days have elapsed since the service or  
5 mailing of such notice; and

6 (i) That the claiming successor is either personally entitled to  
7 full payment or delivery of the property claimed or is entitled to full  
8 payment or delivery thereof on the behalf and with the written  
9 authority of all other successors who have an interest therein.

10 (3) A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered  
11 ownership of the security claimed from the decedent to the person  
12 claiming to be the successor with respect to such security upon the  
13 presentation of proof of death and of an affidavit made by such person  
14 which meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. Any  
15 governmental agency required to issue certificates of ownership or of  
16 license registration to personal property shall issue a new certificate  
17 of ownership or of license registration to a person claiming to be a  
18 successor of the decedent upon receipt of proof of death and of an  
19 affidavit made by such person which meets the requirements of  
20 subsection (2) of this section.

21 (4) No release from any Washington state or local taxing authority  
22 may be required before any assets or debts are paid or delivered to a  
23 successor of a decedent as required under this section.

24 (5) A copy of the affidavit, including the decedent's social  
25 security number, shall be mailed to the state of Washington, department  
26 of social and health services, office of financial recovery.

27 **Sec. 924.** RCW 11.62.030 and 1980 c 41 s 10 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 On the death of any member of any credit union organized under  
30 chapter 31.12 RCW or federal law, such credit union may pay to the  
31 surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner the moneys of such  
32 member on deposit to the credit of said deceased member, including  
33 moneys deposited as shares in said credit union, in cases where the  
34 amount of deposit does not exceed the sum of one thousand dollars, upon  
35 receipt of an affidavit from the surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
36 partner to the effect that the member died and no executor or  
37 administrator has been appointed for the member's estate, and the

1 member had on deposit in said credit union money not exceeding the sum  
2 of one thousand dollars. The payment of such deposit made in good  
3 faith to the spouse or the domestic partner making the affidavit shall  
4 be a full acquittance and release of the credit union for the amount of  
5 the deposit so paid.

6 No probate proceeding shall be necessary to establish the right of  
7 said surviving spouse to withdraw said deposits upon the filing of said  
8 affidavit: PROVIDED, That whenever a personal representative is  
9 appointed in an estate where a withdrawal of deposits has been had in  
10 compliance with this section, the spouse so withdrawing said deposits  
11 shall account for the same to the personal representative. The credit  
12 union may also pay out the moneys on deposit to the credit of the  
13 deceased upon presentation of an affidavit as provided in RCW  
14 11.62.010, as now or hereafter amended.

15 **Sec. 925.** RCW 11.68.011 and 1997 c 252 s 59 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) A personal representative may petition the court for  
18 nonintervention powers, whether the decedent died testate or intestate.

19 (2) Unless the decedent has specified in the decedent's will, if  
20 any, that the court not grant nonintervention powers to the personal  
21 representative, the court shall grant nonintervention powers to a  
22 personal representative who petitions for the powers if the court  
23 determines that the decedent's estate is solvent, taking into account  
24 probate and nonprobate assets, and that:

25 (a) The petitioning personal representative was named in the  
26 decedent's probated will as the personal representative;

27 (b) The decedent died intestate, the petitioning personal  
28 representative is the decedent's surviving spouse or surviving domestic  
29 partner, the decedent's estate is composed of community property only,  
30 and the decedent had no issue: (i) Who is living or in gestation on  
31 the date of the petition; (ii) whose identity is reasonably  
32 ascertainable on the date of the petition; and (iii) who is not also  
33 the issue of the petitioning spouse or petitioning domestic partner; or

34 (c) The personal representative was not a creditor of the decedent  
35 at the time of the decedent's death and the administration and  
36 settlement of the decedent's will or estate with nonintervention powers  
37 would be in the best interests of the decedent's beneficiaries and

1 creditors. However, the administration and settlement of the  
2 decedent's will or estate with nonintervention powers will be presumed  
3 to be in the beneficiaries' and creditors' best interest until a person  
4 entitled to notice under RCW 11.68.041 rebuts that presumption by  
5 coming forward with evidence that the grant of nonintervention powers  
6 would not be in the beneficiaries' or creditors' best interests.

7 (3) The court may base its findings of facts necessary for the  
8 grant of nonintervention powers on: (a) Statements of witnesses  
9 appearing before the court; (b) representations contained in a verified  
10 petition for nonintervention powers, in an inventory made and returned  
11 upon oath into the court, or in an affidavit filed with the court; or  
12 (c) other proof submitted to the court.

13 **Sec. 926.** RCW 11.80.130 and 1972 ex.s. c 83 s 3 are each amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) If the spouse or domestic partner of any absentee owner, or his  
16 or her next of kin, if said absentee has no spouse or domestic partner,  
17 shall wish to sell or transfer any property of the absentee which has  
18 a gross value of less than five thousand dollars, or shall require the  
19 consent of the absentee in any matter regarding the absentee's  
20 children, or any other matter in which the gross value of the subject  
21 matter is less than five thousand dollars, such spouse or such domestic  
22 partner or next of kin may apply to the superior court for an order  
23 authorizing said sale, transfer, or consent without opening a full  
24 trustee proceeding as provided in this chapter. The applicant may make  
25 the application without the assistance of an attorney. Said  
26 application shall be made by petition on the following form, which form  
27 shall be made readily available to the applicant by the clerk of the  
28 superior court.

29 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
30 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR  
31 THE COUNTY OF .....

32 ..... }  
33 *Plaintiff,* }  
34 vs. } No. ....  
35 ..... } PETITION FOR  
36 *Defendant.* } SUMMARY



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.....RELIEF  
  
Petitioner, ....., whose residence is ....., and  
....., Washington, and who is the ..... of the  
absentee, ....., states that the absentee has been  
..... since ....., when ..... Petitioner  
desires to sell/transfer ..... of the value of .....,  
because ..... The terms of the sale/transfer are  
..... Petitioner requires the consent of the absentee  
for the purpose of .....

.....

*Petitioner*

(Affidavit of Acknowledgment)

(2) The court may, without notice, enter an order on said petition if it deems the relief requested in said petition necessary to protect the best interests of the absentee or his or her dependents.

(3) Such order shall be prima facie evidence of the validity of the proceedings and the authority of the petitioner to make a conveyance or transfer of the property or to give the absentee's consent in any manner described by subsection (1) of this section.

**Sec. 927.** RCW 11.96A.030 and 2006 c 360 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Matter" includes any issue, question, or dispute involving:
  - (a) The determination of any class of creditors, devisees, legatees, heirs, next of kin, or other persons interested in an estate, trust, nonprobate asset, or with respect to any other asset or property interest passing at death;
  - (b) The direction of a personal representative or trustee to do or to abstain from doing any act in a fiduciary capacity;
  - (c) The determination of any question arising in the administration of an estate or trust, or with respect to any nonprobate asset, or with respect to any other asset or property interest passing at death, that may include, without limitation, questions relating to: (i) The construction of wills, trusts, community property agreements, and other writings; (ii) a change of personal representative or trustee; (iii) a

1 change of the situs of a trust; (iv) an accounting from a personal  
2 representative or trustee; or (v) the determination of fees for a  
3 personal representative or trustee;

4 (d) The grant to a personal representative or trustee of any  
5 necessary or desirable power not otherwise granted in the governing  
6 instrument or given by law;

7 (e) The amendment, reformation, or conformation of a will or a  
8 trust instrument to comply with statutes and regulations of the United  
9 States internal revenue service in order to achieve qualification for  
10 deductions, elections, and other tax requirements, including the  
11 qualification of any gift thereunder for the benefit of a surviving  
12 spouse who is not a citizen of the United States for the estate tax  
13 marital deduction permitted by federal law, including the addition of  
14 mandatory governing instrument requirements for a qualified domestic  
15 trust under section 2056A of the internal revenue code, the  
16 qualification of any gift thereunder as a qualified conservation  
17 easement as permitted by federal law, or the qualification of any gift  
18 for the charitable estate tax deduction permitted by federal law,  
19 including the addition of mandatory governing instrument requirements  
20 for a charitable remainder trust; and

21 (f) With respect to any nonprobate asset, or with respect to any  
22 other asset or property interest passing at death, including joint  
23 tenancy property, property subject to a community property agreement,  
24 or assets subject to a pay on death or transfer on death designation:

25 (i) The ascertaining of any class of creditors or others for  
26 purposes of chapter 11.18 or 11.42 RCW;

27 (ii) The ordering of a qualified person, the notice agent, or  
28 resident agent, as those terms are defined in chapter 11.42 RCW, or any  
29 combination of them, to do or abstain from doing any particular act  
30 with respect to a nonprobate asset;

31 (iii) The ordering of a custodian of any of the decedent's records  
32 relating to a nonprobate asset to do or abstain from doing any  
33 particular act with respect to those records;

34 (iv) The determination of any question arising in the  
35 administration under chapter 11.18 or 11.42 RCW of a nonprobate asset;

36 (v) The determination of any questions relating to the abatement,  
37 rights of creditors, or other matter relating to the administration,

1 settlement, or final disposition of a nonprobate asset under this  
2 title;

3 (vi) The resolution of any matter referencing this chapter,  
4 including a determination of any questions relating to the ownership or  
5 distribution of an individual retirement account on the death of the  
6 spouse of the account holder as contemplated by RCW 6.15.020(6);

7 (vii) The resolution of any other matter that could affect the  
8 nonprobate asset.

9 (2) "Notice agent" has the meanings given in RCW 11.42.010.

10 (3) "Nonprobate assets" has the meaning given in RCW 11.02.005.

11 (4) "Party" or "parties" means each of the following persons who  
12 has an interest in the subject of the particular proceeding and whose  
13 name and address are known to, or are reasonably ascertainable by, the  
14 petitioner:

15 (a) The trustor if living;

16 (b) The trustee;

17 (c) The personal representative;

18 (d) An heir;

19 (e) A beneficiary, including devisees, legatees, and trust  
20 beneficiaries;

21 (f) The surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a  
22 decedent with respect to his or her interest in the decedent's  
23 property;

24 (g) A guardian ad litem;

25 (h) A creditor;

26 (i) Any other person who has an interest in the subject of the  
27 particular proceeding;

28 (j) The attorney general if required under RCW 11.110.120;

29 (k) Any duly appointed and acting legal representative of a party  
30 such as a guardian, special representative, or attorney-in-fact;

31 (l) Where applicable, the virtual representative of any person  
32 described in this subsection the giving of notice to whom would meet  
33 notice requirements as provided in RCW 11.96A.120;

34 (m) Any notice agent, resident agent, or a qualified person, as  
35 those terms are defined in chapter 11.42 RCW; and

36 (n) The owner or the personal representative of the estate of the  
37 deceased owner of the nonprobate asset that is the subject of the

1 particular proceeding, if the subject of the particular proceeding  
2 relates to the beneficiary's liability to a decedent's estate or  
3 creditors under RCW 11.18.200.

4 (5) "Persons interested in the estate or trust" means the trustor,  
5 if living, all persons beneficially interested in the estate or trust,  
6 persons holding powers over the trust or estate assets, the attorney  
7 general in the case of any charitable trust where the attorney general  
8 would be a necessary party to judicial proceedings concerning the  
9 trust, and any personal representative or trustee of the estate or  
10 trust.

11 (6) "Principal place of administration of the trust" means the  
12 trustee's usual place of business where the day-to-day records  
13 pertaining to the trust are kept, or the trustee's residence if the  
14 trustee has no such place of business.

15 (7) The "situs" of a trust means the place where the principal  
16 place of administration of the trust is located, unless otherwise  
17 provided in the instrument creating the trust.

18 (8) "Trustee" means any acting and qualified trustee of the trust.

19 (9) "Representative" and other similar terms refer to a person who  
20 virtually represents another under RCW 11.96A.120.

21 (10) "Citation" or "cite" and other similar terms, when required of  
22 a person interested in the estate or trust or a party to a petition,  
23 means to give notice as required under RCW 11.96A.100. "Citation" or  
24 "cite" and other similar terms, when required of the court, means to  
25 order, as authorized under RCW 11.96A.020 and 11.96A.060, and as  
26 authorized by law.

27 **Sec. 928.** RCW 11.96A.120 and 2001 c 203 s 11 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) This section is intended to adopt the common law concept of  
30 virtual representation. This section supplements the common law  
31 relating to the doctrine of virtual representation and shall not be  
32 construed as limiting the application of that common law doctrine.

33 (2) Any notice requirement in this title is satisfied if notice is  
34 given as follows:

35 (a) Where an interest in an estate, trust, or nonprobate asset or  
36 an interest that may be affected by a power of attorney has been given  
37 to persons who comprise a certain class upon the happening of a certain

1 event, notice may be given to the living persons who would constitute  
2 the class if the event had happened immediately before the commencement  
3 of the proceeding requiring notice, and the persons shall virtually  
4 represent all other members of the class;

5 (b) Where an interest in an estate, trust, or nonprobate asset or  
6 an interest that may be affected by a power of attorney has been given  
7 to a living person, and the same interest, or a share in it, is to pass  
8 to the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner or to persons who  
9 are, or might be, the distributees, heirs, issue, or other kindred of  
10 that living person upon the happening of a future event, notice may be  
11 given to that living person, and the living person shall virtually  
12 represent the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner,  
13 distributees, heirs, issue, or other kindred of the person; and

14 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, where an  
15 interest in an estate, trust, or nonprobate asset or an interest that  
16 may be affected by a power of attorney has been given to a person or a  
17 class of persons, or both, upon the happening of any future event, and  
18 the same interest or a share of the interest is to pass to another  
19 person or class of persons, or both, upon the happening of an  
20 additional future event, notice may be given to the living person or  
21 persons who would take the interest upon the happening of the first  
22 event, and the living person or persons shall virtually represent the  
23 persons and classes of persons who might take on the happening of the  
24 additional future event.

25 (3) A party is not virtually represented by a person receiving  
26 notice if a conflict of interest involving the matter is known to exist  
27 between the notified person and the party.

28 (4) An action taken by the court is conclusive and binding upon  
29 each person receiving actual or constructive notice or who is otherwise  
30 virtually represented.

31 **Sec. 929.** RCW 11.100.025 and 1985 c 30 s 67 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 Notwithstanding RCW 11.98.070(21)(a), 11.100.060, or any other  
34 statutory provisions to the contrary, with respect to trusts which  
35 require by their own terms or by operation of law that all income be  
36 paid at least annually to the spouse or domestic partner of the trust's  
37 creator, which do not provide that on the termination of the income

1 interest that the entire then remaining trust estate be paid to the  
2 estate of the spouse or domestic partner of the trust's creator, and  
3 for which a federal estate or gift tax marital deduction is claimed,  
4 any investment in or retention of unproductive property is subject to  
5 a power in the spouse or domestic partner of the trust's creator to  
6 require either that any such asset be made productive, or that it be  
7 converted to productive assets within a reasonable period of time  
8 unless the instrument creating the interest provides otherwise.

9 **Sec. 930.** RCW 11.04.290 and 1965 c 145 s 11.04.290 are each  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 RCW 11.04.250 through 11.04.290 shall apply to community real  
12 property and also to separate estate; and upon the death of either  
13 (~~husband or wife~~) spouse or either domestic partner, title of all  
14 community real property shall vest immediately in the person or persons  
15 to whom the same shall go, pass, descend or be devised, as provided in  
16 RCW 11.04.015, subject to all the charges mentioned in RCW 11.04.250.

17 **Sec. 931.** RCW 11.10.030 and 1994 c 221 s 7 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) A community debt or liability is charged against the entire  
20 community property, with the surviving spouse's or surviving domestic  
21 partner's half and the decedent spouse's or decedent domestic partner's  
22 half charged equally.

23 (2) A separate debt or liability is charged first against separate  
24 property, and if that is insufficient against the balance of decedent's  
25 half of community property remaining after community debts and  
26 liabilities are satisfied.

27 (3) A community debt or liability that is also the separate debt or  
28 liability of the decedent is charged first against the whole of the  
29 community property and then against the decedent's separate property.

30 (4) An expense of administration is charged against the separate  
31 property and the decedent's half of the community property in  
32 proportion to the relative value of the property, unless a different  
33 charging of expenses is shown to be appropriate under the circumstances  
34 including against the surviving spouse's or surviving domestic  
35 partner's share of the community property.

1 (5) Property of a similar type, community or separate, is  
2 appropriated in accordance with the abatement priorities of RCW  
3 11.10.010.

4 (6) Property that is primarily chargeable for a debt or liability  
5 is exhausted, in accordance with the abatement priorities of RCW  
6 11.10.010, before resort is had, also in accordance with RCW 11.10.010,  
7 to property that is secondarily chargeable.

8 **Sec. 932.** RCW 11.80.010 and 1972 ex.s. c 83 s 1 are each amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 Whenever it shall be made to appear by petition to any judge of the  
11 superior court of any county that there is property in such county,  
12 either real or personal, that requires care and attention, or is in  
13 such a condition that it is a menace to the public health, safety or  
14 welfare, or that the custodian of such property appointed by the owner  
15 thereof is either unable or unwilling to continue longer in the care  
16 and custody thereof, and that the owner of such property has absented  
17 himself or herself from the county and that his or her whereabouts is  
18 unknown and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained, or that  
19 the absentee owner is a person defined in RCW 11.80.120, which petition  
20 shall state the name of the absent owner, his or her approximate age,  
21 his or her last known place of residence, the circumstances under which  
22 he or she left and the place to which he or she was going, if known,  
23 his or her business or occupation and his or her physical appearance  
24 and habits so far as known, the judge to whom such petition is  
25 presented shall set a time for hearing such petition not less than six  
26 weeks from the date of filing, and shall by order direct that a notice  
27 of such hearing be published for three successive weeks in a legal  
28 newspaper published in the county where such petition is filed and in  
29 such other counties and states as will in the judgment of the court be  
30 most likely to come to the attention of the absentee or of persons who  
31 may know his or her whereabouts, which notice shall state the object of  
32 the petition and the date of hearing, and set forth such facts and  
33 circumstances as in the judgment of the court will aid in identifying  
34 the absentee, and shall contain a request that all persons having  
35 knowledge concerning the absentee shall advise the court of the facts:  
36 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the court may, upon the filing of said

1 petition, appoint a temporary trustee, who shall have the powers,  
2 duties and qualifications of a special administrator.

3 If it shall appear at such hearing that the whereabouts of the  
4 absentee is unknown, but there is reason to believe that upon further  
5 investigation and inquiry he or she may be found, the judge may  
6 continue the hearing and order such inquiry and advertisement as will  
7 in his or her discretion be liable to disclose the whereabouts of the  
8 absentee, but when it shall appear to the judge at such hearing or any  
9 adjournment thereof that the whereabouts of the absentee cannot be  
10 ascertained, he or she shall appoint a suitable person resident of the  
11 county as trustee of such property, taking into consideration the  
12 character of the property and the fitness of such trustee to care for  
13 the same, preferring in such appointment the ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse  
14 or the domestic partner of the absentee to his or her presumptive  
15 heirs, the presumptive heirs to kin more remote, the kin to strangers,  
16 and creditors to those who are not otherwise interested, provided they  
17 are fit persons to have the care and custody of the particular property  
18 in question and will accept the appointment and qualify as hereinafter  
19 provided.

20 **Sec. 933.** RCW 11.80.050 and 1965 c 145 s 11.80.050 are each  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Whenever a petition is filed in said estate from which it appears  
23 to the satisfaction of the court that the owner of such property left  
24 a ((~~husband or wife~~)) spouse or domestic partner, child or children,  
25 dependent upon such absentee for support or upon the property in the  
26 estate of such absentee, either in whole or in part, the court shall  
27 hold a hearing on said petition, after such notice as the court may  
28 direct, and upon such hearing shall enter such order as it deems  
29 advisable and may order an allowance to be paid out of any of the  
30 property of such estate, either community or separate, as the court  
31 shall deem reasonable and necessary for the support and maintenance of  
32 such dependent or dependents, pending the return of the absentee, or  
33 until such time as the property of said estate may be provisionally  
34 distributed to the presumptive heirs or to the devisees and legatees.  
35 Such allowance shall be paid by the trustee to such persons and in such  
36 manner and at such periods of time as the court may direct. For the



1 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section the court may  
2 direct the sale of any of the property of the estate, either real or  
3 personal, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 11.80.040.

4 **Sec. 934.** RCW 11.114.010 and 2006 c 204 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
7 this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Adult" means an individual other than the minor who has  
9 attained the age of twenty-one years and is older than the minor.

10 (2) "Benefit plan" means an employer's plan for the benefit of an  
11 employee or partner.

12 (3) "Broker" means a person lawfully engaged in the business of  
13 effecting transactions in securities or commodities for the person's  
14 own account or for the account of others.

15 (4) "Guardian" means a person appointed or qualified by a court to  
16 act as general, limited, or temporary guardian of a minor's property or  
17 a person legally authorized to perform substantially the same  
18 functions. Conservator means guardian for transfers made under another  
19 state's law but enforceable in this state's courts.

20 (5) "Court" means a superior court of the state of Washington.

21 (6) "Custodial property" means (a) any interest in property  
22 transferred to a custodian under this chapter and (b) the income from  
23 and proceeds of that interest in property.

24 (7) "Custodian" means a person so designated under RCW 11.114.090  
25 or a successor or substitute custodian designated under RCW 11.114.180.

26 (8) "Financial institution" means a bank, trust company, savings  
27 institution, or credit union, chartered and supervised under state or  
28 federal law.

29 (9) "Legal representative" means an individual's personal  
30 representative or guardian.

31 (10) "Member of the minor's family" means the minor's parent,  
32 stepparent, spouse, domestic partner, grandparent, brother, sister,  
33 uncle, or aunt, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

34 (11) "Minor" means an individual who has not attained the age of  
35 twenty-five years.

36 (12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, organization, or  
37 other legal entity.

1 (13) "State" includes any state of the United States, the District  
2 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or  
3 possession subject to the legislative authority of the United States.

4 (14) "Transfer" means a transaction that creates custodial property  
5 under RCW 11.114.090.

6 (15) "Transferor" means a person who makes a transfer under this  
7 chapter.

8 (16) "Trust company" means a financial institution, corporation, or  
9 other legal entity, authorized to exercise general trust powers.

10 **PART X - DISSOLUTION**

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1001.** A new section is added to chapter 26.60  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) Notwithstanding this chapter, a domestic partnership may be  
14 terminated without filing a petition for dissolution in superior court,  
15 provided that all of the following conditions exist at the time of the  
16 filing of the notice of termination:

17 (a) The notice of termination of state registered domestic  
18 partnership is signed by both registered domestic partners.

19 (b) Neither party has children under the age of eighteen, whether  
20 born or adopted before or after registration of the domestic  
21 partnership, and neither of the registered domestic partners, to their  
22 knowledge, is pregnant.

23 (c) The state registered domestic partnership is not more than five  
24 years in duration.

25 (d) Neither party has any ownership interest in real property  
26 wherever situated, and neither party leases a residence, with the  
27 exception of the lease of a residence occupied by either party which  
28 satisfies the following requirements:

29 (i) The lease does not include an option to purchase; and

30 (ii) The lease terminates within one year from the date of filing  
31 the notice of termination of state registered domestic partnership.

32 (e) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of four thousand  
33 dollars, as adjusted by subsection (3) of this section, incurred by  
34 either or both of the parties after registration of the domestic  
35 partnership, excluding the amount of any unpaid obligation with respect  
36 to an automobile.

1 (f) The total fair market value of community property assets, net  
2 of any encumbrances, including any deferred compensation or retirement  
3 plan, is less than twenty-five thousand dollars, as adjusted by  
4 subsection (3) of this section, and neither party has separate property  
5 assets, net of any encumbrances, in excess of that amount.

6 (g) The parties have executed an agreement setting forth the  
7 division of assets and the assumption of liabilities of the community  
8 property, and have executed any documents, title certificates, bills of  
9 sale, or other evidence of transfer necessary to effectuate the  
10 agreement.

11 (h) The parties waive any rights to maintenance by the other  
12 domestic partner.

13 (i) Both parties desire that the domestic partnership be  
14 terminated.

15 (2) The termination of a domestic partnership pursuant to this  
16 section does not prejudice nor bar the rights of either of the parties  
17 to institute an action in the superior court to set aside the  
18 termination for fraud, duress, mistake, or any other ground recognized  
19 at law or in equity. A court may set aside the termination of state  
20 registered domestic partnership and declare the termination of the  
21 domestic partnership null and void upon proof that the parties did not  
22 meet the requirements of this section at the time of the filing of the  
23 notice of termination of state registered domestic partnership with the  
24 secretary of state.

25 (3) On January 1, 2009, and on each January 1st of each odd-  
26 numbered year thereafter, the amounts in subsection (1)(e) and (f) of  
27 this section shall be adjusted to reflect any change in the value of  
28 the dollar. The adjustments shall be made by multiplying the base  
29 amounts by the percentage change in the Washington state consumer price  
30 index, with the result rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. The  
31 administrative office of the courts shall compute and publish the  
32 amounts.

33 **Sec. 1002.** RCW 26.60.050 and 2007 c 156 s 6 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1)((~~(a) A party~~)) Parties to a state registered domestic  
36 partnership meeting the conditions in section 1001 of this act may  
37 terminate the relationship without filing a petition under chapter

1 26.09 RCW by filing a notice of termination of the state registered  
2 domestic partnership with the secretary and paying the filing fee  
3 established pursuant to subsection (5) of this section. ~~((The notice  
4 must be signed by one or both parties and notarized. If the notice is  
5 not signed by both parties, the party seeking termination must also  
6 file with the secretary an affidavit stating either that the other  
7 party has been served in writing in the manner prescribed for the  
8 service of summons in a civil action, that a notice of termination is  
9 being filed or that the party seeking termination has not been able to  
10 find the other party after reasonable effort and that notice has been  
11 made by publication pursuant to (b) of this subsection.~~

12 ~~(b) When the other party cannot be found after reasonable effort,  
13 the party seeking termination may provide notice by publication in a  
14 newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the residence  
15 most recently shared by the domestic partners is located. Notice must  
16 be published at least once.))~~

17 (2) The state registered domestic partnership shall be terminated  
18 effective ninety days after the date of filing the notice of  
19 termination and payment of the filing fee.

20 (3) Upon receipt of a signed, notarized notice of termination,  
21 ~~((affidavit, if required,))~~ and the filing fee, the secretary shall  
22 register the notice of termination and provide a certificate of  
23 termination of the state registered domestic partnership to each party  
24 named on the notice. The secretary shall maintain a record of each  
25 notice of termination filed with the secretary and each certificate of  
26 termination issued by the secretary. The secretary shall provide the  
27 state registrar of vital statistics with records of terminations of  
28 state registered domestic partnerships, except for those state  
29 registered domestic partnerships terminated under subsection (4) of  
30 this section.

31 (4) A state registered domestic partnership is automatically  
32 terminated if, subsequent to the registration of the domestic  
33 partnership with the secretary, either or both the parties enter into  
34 a marriage that is recognized as valid in this state, either with each  
35 other or with another person.

36 (5) The secretary shall set by rule and collect a reasonable fee  
37 for filing the declaration, calculated to cover the secretary's costs,

1 but not to exceed fifty dollars. Fees collected under this section are  
2 expressly designated for deposit in the secretary of state's revolving  
3 fund established under RCW 43.07.130.

4 **Sec. 1003.** RCW 26.09.004 and 1987 c 460 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

7 (1) "Temporary parenting plan" means a plan for parenting of the  
8 child pending final resolution of any action for dissolution of  
9 marriage or domestic partnership, declaration of invalidity, or legal  
10 separation which is incorporated in a temporary order.

11 (2) "Permanent parenting plan" means a plan for parenting the  
12 child, including allocation of parenting functions, which plan is  
13 incorporated in any final decree or decree of modification in an action  
14 for dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, declaration of  
15 invalidity, or legal separation.

16 (3) "Parenting functions" means those aspects of the parent-child  
17 relationship in which the parent makes decisions and performs functions  
18 necessary for the care and growth of the child. Parenting functions  
19 include:

20 (a) Maintaining a loving, stable, consistent, and nurturing  
21 relationship with the child;

22 (b) Attending to the daily needs of the child, such as feeding,  
23 clothing, physical care and grooming, supervision, health care, and day  
24 care, and engaging in other activities which are appropriate to the  
25 developmental level of the child and that are within the social and  
26 economic circumstances of the particular family;

27 (c) Attending to adequate education for the child, including  
28 remedial or other education essential to the best interests of the  
29 child;

30 (d) Assisting the child in developing and maintaining appropriate  
31 interpersonal relationships;

32 (e) Exercising appropriate judgment regarding the child's welfare,  
33 consistent with the child's developmental level and the family's social  
34 and economic circumstances; and

35 (f) Providing for the financial support of the child.

1       **Sec. 1004.** RCW 26.09.010 and 1989 c 375 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the practice  
4 in civil action shall govern all proceedings under this chapter, except  
5 that trial by jury is dispensed with.

6       (2) A proceeding for dissolution of marriage or domestic  
7 partnership, legal separation or a declaration concerning the validity  
8 of a marriage or domestic partnership shall be entitled "In re the  
9 marriage of . . . . . and . . . . ." or "In re the domestic  
10 partnership of . . . . . and . . . . ." Such proceedings may be  
11 filed in the superior court of the county where the petitioner resides.

12       (3) In cases where there has been no prior proceeding in this state  
13 involving the marital or domestic partnership status of the parties or  
14 support obligations for a minor child, a separate parenting and support  
15 proceeding between the parents shall be entitled "In re the parenting  
16 and support of . . . . ."

17       (4) The initial pleading in all proceedings under this chapter  
18 shall be denominated a petition. A responsive pleading shall be  
19 denominated a response. Other pleadings, and all pleadings in other  
20 matters under this chapter shall be denominated as provided in the  
21 civil rules for superior court.

22       (5) In this chapter, "decree" includes "judgment".

23       (6) A decree of dissolution, of legal separation, or a declaration  
24 concerning the validity of a marriage or domestic partnership shall not  
25 be awarded to one of the parties, but shall provide that it affects the  
26 status previously existing between the parties in the manner decreed.

27       **Sec. 1005.** RCW 26.09.020 and 2007 c 496 s 203 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29       (1) A petition in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or  
30 domestic partnership, legal separation, or for a declaration concerning  
31 the validity of a marriage or domestic partnership shall allege:

32       (a) The last known state of residence of each party, and if a  
33 party's last known state of residence is Washington, the last known  
34 county of residence;

35       (b) The date and place of the marriage or domestic partnership;

36       (c) If the parties are separated the date on which the separation  
37 occurred;

1 (d) The names and ages of any child dependent upon either or both  
2 spouses or either or both domestic partners and whether the wife or  
3 domestic partner is pregnant;

4 (e) Any arrangements as to the residential schedule of, decision  
5 making for, dispute resolution for, and support of the children and the  
6 maintenance of a spouse or domestic partner;

7 (f) A statement specifying whether there is community or separate  
8 property owned by the parties to be disposed of;

9 (g) If the county has established a program under RCW 26.12.260, a  
10 statement affirming that the moving party met and conferred with the  
11 program prior to filing the petition;

12 (h) The relief sought.

13 (2) Either or both parties to the marriage or to the domestic  
14 partnership may initiate the proceeding.

15 (3) The petitioner shall complete and file with the petition a  
16 certificate under RCW 43.70.150 on the form provided by the department  
17 of health and the confidential information form under RCW 26.23.050.

18 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit  
19 the ability of parties to obtain appropriate emergency orders.

20 **Sec. 1006.** RCW 26.09.030 and 2005 c 55 s 1 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 When a party who (1) is a resident of this state, or (2) is a  
23 member of the armed forces and is stationed in this state, or (3) is  
24 married or in a domestic partnership to a party who is a resident of  
25 this state or who is a member of the armed forces and is stationed in  
26 this state, petitions for a dissolution of marriage or dissolution of  
27 domestic partnership, and alleges that the marriage or domestic  
28 partnership is irretrievably broken and when ninety days have elapsed  
29 since the petition was filed and from the date when service of summons  
30 was made upon the respondent or the first publication of summons was  
31 made, the court shall proceed as follows:

32 (a) If the other party joins in the petition or does not deny that  
33 the marriage or domestic partnership is irretrievably broken, the court  
34 shall enter a decree of dissolution.

35 (b) If the other party alleges that the petitioner was induced to  
36 file the petition by fraud, or coercion, the court shall make a finding  
37 as to that allegation and, if it so finds shall dismiss the petition.

1 (c) If the other party denies that the marriage or domestic  
2 partnership is irretrievably broken the court shall consider all  
3 relevant factors, including the circumstances that gave rise to the  
4 filing of the petition and the prospects for reconciliation and shall:

5 (i) Make a finding that the marriage or domestic partnership is  
6 irretrievably broken and enter a decree of dissolution of the marriage  
7 or domestic partnership; or

8 (ii) At the request of either party or on its own motion, transfer  
9 the cause to the family court, refer them to another counseling service  
10 of their choice, and request a report back from the counseling service  
11 within sixty days, or continue the matter for not more than sixty days  
12 for hearing. If the cause is returned from the family court or at the  
13 adjourned hearing, the court shall:

14 (A) Find that the parties have agreed to reconciliation and dismiss  
15 the petition; or

16 (B) Find that the parties have not been reconciled, and that either  
17 party continues to allege that the marriage or domestic partnership is  
18 irretrievably broken. When such facts are found, the court shall enter  
19 a decree of dissolution of the marriage or domestic partnership.

20 (d) If the petitioner requests the court to decree legal separation  
21 in lieu of dissolution, the court shall enter the decree in that form  
22 unless the other party objects and petitions for a decree of  
23 dissolution or declaration of invalidity.

24 (e) In considering a petition for dissolution of marriage or  
25 domestic partnership, a court shall not use a party's pregnancy as the  
26 sole basis for denying or delaying the entry of a decree of dissolution  
27 of marriage or domestic partnership. Granting a decree of dissolution  
28 of marriage or domestic partnership when a party is pregnant does not  
29 affect further proceedings under the uniform parentage act, chapter  
30 26.26 RCW.

31 **Sec. 1007.** RCW 26.09.040 and 1987 c 460 s 4 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) While both parties to an alleged marriage or domestic  
34 partnership are living, and at least one party is resident in this  
35 state or a member of the armed service and stationed in the state, a  
36 petition to have the marriage or domestic partnership declared invalid  
37 may be sought by:



1 (a) Either or both parties, or the guardian of an incompetent  
2 spouse or incompetent domestic partner, for any cause specified in  
3 subsection (4) of this section; or

4 (b) Either or both parties, the legal spouse or domestic partner,  
5 or a child of either party when it is alleged that (~~the marriage is~~  
6 ~~bigamous~~) either or both parties is married to or in a domestic  
7 partnership with another person.

8 (2) If the validity of a marriage or domestic partnership is denied  
9 or questioned at any time, either or both parties to the marriage or  
10 either or both parties to the domestic partnership may petition the  
11 court for a judicial determination of the validity of such marriage or  
12 domestic partnership.

13 (3) In a proceeding to declare the invalidity of a marriage or  
14 domestic partnership, the court shall proceed in the manner and shall  
15 have the jurisdiction, including the authority to provide for  
16 maintenance, a parenting plan for minor children, and division of the  
17 property of the parties, provided by this chapter.

18 (4) After hearing the evidence concerning the validity of a  
19 marriage or domestic partnership, if both parties to the alleged  
20 marriage or domestic partnership are still living, the court:

21 (a) If it finds the marriage or domestic partnership to be valid,  
22 shall enter a decree of validity;

23 (b) If it finds that:

24 (i) The marriage or domestic partnership should not have been  
25 contracted because of age of one or both of the parties, lack of  
26 required parental or court approval, a prior undissolved marriage of  
27 one or both of the parties, a prior domestic partnership of one or both  
28 parties that has not been terminated or dissolved, reasons of  
29 consanguinity, or because a party lacked capacity to consent to the  
30 marriage or domestic partnership, either because of mental incapacity  
31 or because of the influence of alcohol or other incapacitating  
32 substances, or because a party was induced to enter into the marriage  
33 or domestic partnership by force or duress, or by fraud involving the  
34 essentials of marriage or domestic partnership, and that the parties  
35 have not ratified their marriage or domestic partnership by voluntarily  
36 cohabiting after attaining the age of consent, or after attaining  
37 capacity to consent, or after cessation of the force or duress or

1 discovery of the fraud, shall declare the marriage or domestic  
2 partnership invalid as of the date it was purportedly contracted;

3 (ii) The marriage or domestic partnership should not have been  
4 contracted because of any reason other than those above, shall upon  
5 motion of a party, order any action which may be appropriate to  
6 complete or to correct the record and enter a decree declaring such  
7 marriage or domestic partnership to be valid for all purposes from the  
8 date upon which it was purportedly contracted;

9 (c) If it finds that a marriage or domestic partnership contracted  
10 in a jurisdiction other than this state, was void or voidable under the  
11 law of the place where the marriage or domestic partnership was  
12 contracted, and in the absence of proof that such marriage or domestic  
13 partnership was subsequently validated by the laws of the place of  
14 contract or of a subsequent domicile of the parties, shall declare the  
15 marriage or domestic partnership invalid as of the date of the marriage  
16 or domestic partnership.

17 (5) Any child of the parties born or conceived during the existence  
18 of a marriage or domestic partnership of record is legitimate and  
19 remains legitimate notwithstanding the entry of a declaration of  
20 invalidity of the marriage or domestic partnership.

21 **Sec. 1008.** RCW 26.09.050 and 2000 c 119 s 6 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) In entering a decree of dissolution of marriage or domestic  
24 partnership, legal separation, or declaration of invalidity, the court  
25 shall determine the marital or domestic partnership status of the  
26 parties, make provision for a parenting plan for any minor child of the  
27 marriage or domestic partnership, make provision for the support of any  
28 child of the marriage or domestic partnership entitled to support,  
29 consider or approve provision for the maintenance of either spouse or  
30 either domestic partner, make provision for the disposition of property  
31 and liabilities of the parties, make provision for the allocation of  
32 the children as federal tax exemptions, make provision for any  
33 necessary continuing restraining orders including the provisions  
34 contained in RCW 9.41.800, make provision for the issuance within this  
35 action of the restraint provisions of a domestic violence protection  
36 order under chapter 26.50 RCW or an antiharassment protection order

1 under chapter 10.14 RCW, and make provision for the change of name of  
2 any party.

3 (2) Restraining orders issued under this section restraining or  
4 enjoining the person from molesting or disturbing another party, or  
5 from going onto the grounds of or entering the home, workplace, or  
6 school of the other party or the day care or school of any child, or  
7 prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly  
8 remaining within, a specified distance of a location, shall prominently  
9 bear on the front page of the order the legend: VIOLATION OF THIS  
10 ORDER WITH ACTUAL NOTICE OF ITS TERMS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER  
11 CHAPTER 26.50 RCW AND WILL SUBJECT A VIOLATOR TO ARREST.

12 (3) The court shall order that any restraining order bearing a  
13 criminal offense legend, any domestic violence protection order, or any  
14 antiharassment protection order granted under this section, in addition  
15 to the law enforcement information sheet or proof of service of the  
16 order, be forwarded by the clerk of the court on or before the next  
17 judicial day to the appropriate law enforcement agency specified in the  
18 order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall  
19 enter the order into any computer-based criminal intelligence  
20 information system available in this state used by law enforcement  
21 agencies to list outstanding warrants. The order is fully enforceable  
22 in any county in the state.

23 (4) If a restraining order issued pursuant to this section is  
24 modified or terminated, the clerk of the court shall notify the law  
25 enforcement agency specified in the order on or before the next  
26 judicial day. Upon receipt of notice that an order has been  
27 terminated, the law enforcement agency shall remove the order from any  
28 computer-based criminal intelligence system.

29 **Sec. 1009.** RCW 26.09.060 and 2000 c 119 s 7 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

- 31 (1) In a proceeding for:
- 32 (a) Dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, legal  
33 separation, or a declaration of invalidity; or
  - 34 (b) Disposition of property or liabilities, maintenance, or support  
35 following dissolution of the marriage or the domestic partnership by a  
36 court which lacked personal jurisdiction over the absent spouse or  
37 absent domestic partner; either party may move for temporary

1 maintenance or for temporary support of children entitled to support.  
2 The motion shall be accompanied by an affidavit setting forth the  
3 factual basis for the motion and the amounts requested.

4 (2) As a part of a motion for temporary maintenance or support or  
5 by independent motion accompanied by affidavit, either party may  
6 request the court to issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary  
7 injunction, providing relief proper in the circumstances, and  
8 restraining or enjoining any person from:

9 (a) Transferring, removing, encumbering, concealing, or in any way  
10 disposing of any property except in the usual course of business or for  
11 the necessities of life, and, if so restrained or enjoined, requiring  
12 him or her to notify the moving party of any proposed extraordinary  
13 expenditures made after the order is issued;

14 (b) Molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party or of any  
15 child;

16 (c) Going onto the grounds of or entering the home, workplace, or  
17 school of the other party or the day care or school of any child upon  
18 a showing of the necessity therefor;

19 (d) Knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a  
20 specified distance from a specified location; and

21 (e) Removing a child from the jurisdiction of the court.

22 (3) Either party may request a domestic violence protection order  
23 under chapter 26.50 RCW or an antiharassment protection order under  
24 chapter 10.14 RCW on a temporary basis. The court may grant any of the  
25 relief provided in RCW 26.50.060 except relief pertaining to  
26 residential provisions for the children which provisions shall be  
27 provided for under this chapter, and any of the relief provided in RCW  
28 10.14.080. Ex parte orders issued under this subsection shall be  
29 effective for a fixed period not to exceed fourteen days, or upon court  
30 order, not to exceed twenty-four days if necessary to ensure that all  
31 temporary motions in the case can be heard at the same time.

32 (4) In issuing the order, the court shall consider the provisions  
33 of RCW 9.41.800.

34 (5) The court may issue a temporary restraining order without  
35 requiring notice to the other party only if it finds on the basis of  
36 the moving affidavit or other evidence that irreparable injury could  
37 result if an order is not issued until the time for responding has  
38 elapsed.

1 (6) The court may issue a temporary restraining order or  
2 preliminary injunction and an order for temporary maintenance or  
3 support in such amounts and on such terms as are just and proper in the  
4 circumstances. The court may in its discretion waive the filing of the  
5 bond or the posting of security.

6 (7) Restraining orders issued under this section restraining the  
7 person from molesting or disturbing another party, or from going onto  
8 the grounds of or entering the home, workplace, or school of the other  
9 party or the day care or school of any child, or prohibiting the person  
10 from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a  
11 specified distance of a location, shall prominently bear on the front  
12 page of the order the legend: VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER WITH ACTUAL  
13 NOTICE OF ITS TERMS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER CHAPTER 26.50 RCW AND  
14 WILL SUBJECT A VIOLATOR TO ARREST.

15 (8) The court shall order that any temporary restraining order  
16 bearing a criminal offense legend, any domestic violence protection  
17 order, or any antiharassment protection order granted under this  
18 section be forwarded by the clerk of the court on or before the next  
19 judicial day to the appropriate law enforcement agency specified in the  
20 order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall  
21 enter the order into any computer-based criminal intelligence  
22 information system available in this state used by law enforcement  
23 agencies to list outstanding warrants. Entry into the computer-based  
24 criminal intelligence information system constitutes notice to all law  
25 enforcement agencies of the existence of the order. The order is fully  
26 enforceable in any county in the state.

27 (9) If a restraining order issued pursuant to this section is  
28 modified or terminated, the clerk of the court shall notify the law  
29 enforcement agency specified in the order on or before the next  
30 judicial day. Upon receipt of notice that an order has been  
31 terminated, the law enforcement agency shall remove the order from any  
32 computer-based criminal intelligence system.

33 (10) A temporary order, temporary restraining order, or preliminary  
34 injunction:

35 (a) Does not prejudice the rights of a party or any child which are  
36 to be adjudicated at subsequent hearings in the proceeding;

37 (b) May be revoked or modified;

1 (c) Terminates when the final decree is entered, except as provided  
2 under subsection (11) of this section, or when the petition for  
3 dissolution, legal separation, or declaration of invalidity is  
4 dismissed;

5 (d) May be entered in a proceeding for the modification of an  
6 existing decree.

7 (11) Delinquent support payments accrued under an order for  
8 temporary support remain collectible and are not extinguished when a  
9 final decree is entered unless the decree contains specific language to  
10 the contrary. A support debt under a temporary order owed to the state  
11 for public assistance expenditures shall not be extinguished by the  
12 final decree if:

13 (a) The obligor was given notice of the state's interest under  
14 chapter 74.20A RCW; or

15 (b) The temporary order directs the obligor to make support  
16 payments to the office of support enforcement or the Washington state  
17 support registry.

18 **Sec. 1010.** RCW 26.09.070 and 1989 c 375 s 4 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The parties to a marriage or a domestic partnership, in order  
21 to promote the amicable settlement of disputes attendant upon their  
22 separation or upon the filing of a petition for dissolution of their  
23 marriage or domestic partnership, a decree of legal separation, or  
24 declaration of invalidity of their marriage or domestic partnership,  
25 may enter into a written separation contract providing for the  
26 maintenance of either of them, the disposition of any property owned by  
27 both or either of them, the parenting plan and support for their  
28 children and for the release of each other from all obligation except  
29 that expressed in the contract.

30 (2) If the parties to such contract elect to live separate and  
31 apart without any court decree, they may record such contract and cause  
32 notice thereof to be published in a legal newspaper of the county  
33 wherein the parties resided prior to their separation. Recording such  
34 contract and publishing notice of the making thereof shall constitute  
35 notice to all persons of such separation and of the facts contained in  
36 the recorded document.

1 (3) If either or both of the parties to a separation contract shall  
2 at the time of the execution thereof, or at a subsequent time, petition  
3 the court for dissolution of their marriage or domestic partnership,  
4 for a decree of legal separation, or for a declaration of invalidity of  
5 their marriage or domestic partnership, the contract, except for those  
6 terms providing for a parenting plan for their children, shall be  
7 binding upon the court unless it finds, after considering the economic  
8 circumstances of the parties and any other relevant evidence produced  
9 by the parties on their own motion or on request of the court, that the  
10 separation contract was unfair at the time of its execution. Child  
11 support may be included in the separation contract and shall be  
12 reviewed in the subsequent proceeding for compliance with RCW  
13 26.19.020.

14 (4) If the court in an action for dissolution of marriage or  
15 domestic partnership, legal separation, or declaration of invalidity  
16 finds that the separation contract was unfair at the time of its  
17 execution, it may make orders for the maintenance of either party, the  
18 disposition of their property and the discharge of their obligations.

19 (5) Unless the separation contract provides to the contrary, the  
20 agreement shall be set forth in the decree of dissolution, legal  
21 separation, or declaration of invalidity, or filed in the action or  
22 made an exhibit and incorporated by reference, except that in all cases  
23 the terms of the parenting plan shall be set out in the decree, and the  
24 parties shall be ordered to comply with its terms.

25 (6) Terms of the contract set forth or incorporated by reference in  
26 the decree may be enforced by all remedies available for the  
27 enforcement of a judgment, including contempt, and are enforceable as  
28 contract terms.

29 (7) When the separation contract so provides, the decree may  
30 expressly preclude or limit modification of any provision for  
31 maintenance set forth in the decree. Terms of a separation contract  
32 pertaining to a parenting plan for the children and, in the absence of  
33 express provision to the contrary, terms providing for maintenance set  
34 forth or incorporated by reference in the decree are automatically  
35 modified by modification of the decree.

36 (8) If at any time the parties to the separation contract by mutual  
37 agreement elect to terminate the separation contract they may do so

1 without formality unless the contract was recorded as in subsection (2)  
2 of this section, in which case a statement should be filed terminating  
3 the contract.

4 **Sec. 1011.** RCW 26.09.080 and 1989 c 375 s 5 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 In a proceeding for dissolution of the marriage or domestic  
7 partnership, legal separation, declaration of invalidity, or in a  
8 proceeding for disposition of property following dissolution of the  
9 marriage or the domestic partnership by a court which lacked personal  
10 jurisdiction over the absent spouse or absent domestic partner or  
11 lacked jurisdiction to dispose of the property, the court shall,  
12 without regard to (~~marital~~) misconduct, make such disposition of the  
13 property and the liabilities of the parties, either community or  
14 separate, as shall appear just and equitable after considering all  
15 relevant factors including, but not limited to:

- 16 (1) The nature and extent of the community property;
- 17 (2) The nature and extent of the separate property;
- 18 (3) The duration of the marriage or domestic partnership; and
- 19 (4) The economic circumstances of each spouse or domestic partner  
20 at the time the division of property is to become effective, including  
21 the desirability of awarding the family home or the right to live  
22 therein for reasonable periods to a spouse or domestic partner with  
23 whom the children reside the majority of the time.

24 **Sec. 1012.** RCW 26.09.090 and 1989 c 375 s 6 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) In a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or domestic  
27 partnership, legal separation, declaration of invalidity, or in a  
28 proceeding for maintenance following dissolution of the marriage or  
29 domestic partnership by a court which lacked personal jurisdiction over  
30 the absent spouse or absent domestic partner, the court may grant a  
31 maintenance order for either spouse or either domestic partner. The  
32 maintenance order shall be in such amounts and for such periods of time  
33 as the court deems just, without regard to (~~marital~~) misconduct,  
34 after considering all relevant factors including but not limited to:

- 35 (a) The financial resources of the party seeking maintenance,  
36 including separate or community property apportioned to him or her, and



1 his or her ability to meet his or her needs independently, including  
2 the extent to which a provision for support of a child living with the  
3 party includes a sum for that party;

4 (b) The time necessary to acquire sufficient education or training  
5 to enable the party seeking maintenance to find employment appropriate  
6 to his or her skill, interests, style of life, and other attendant  
7 circumstances;

8 (c) The standard of living established during the marriage or  
9 domestic partnership;

10 (d) The duration of the marriage or domestic partnership;

11 (e) The age, physical and emotional condition, and financial  
12 obligations of the spouse or domestic partner seeking maintenance; and

13 (f) The ability of the spouse or domestic partner from whom  
14 maintenance is sought to meet his or her needs and financial  
15 obligations while meeting those of the spouse or domestic partner  
16 seeking maintenance.

17 **Sec. 1013.** RCW 26.09.100 and 1991 sp.s. c 28 s 1 are each amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) In a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or domestic  
20 partnership, legal separation, declaration of invalidity, maintenance,  
21 or child support, after considering all relevant factors but without  
22 regard to (~~marital~~) misconduct, the court shall order either or both  
23 parents owing a duty of support to any child of the marriage or the  
24 domestic partnership dependent upon either or both spouses or domestic  
25 partners to pay an amount determined under chapter 26.19 RCW.

26 (2) The court may require automatic periodic adjustments or  
27 modifications of child support. That portion of any decree that  
28 requires periodic adjustments or modifications of child support shall  
29 use the provisions in chapter 26.19 RCW as the basis for the adjustment  
30 or modification. Provisions in the decree for periodic adjustment or  
31 modification shall not conflict with RCW 26.09.170 except that the  
32 decree may require periodic adjustments or modifications of support  
33 more frequently than the time periods established pursuant to RCW  
34 26.09.170.

35 (3) Upon motion of a party and without a substantial change of  
36 circumstances, the court shall modify the decree to comply with

1 subsection (2) of this section as to installments accruing subsequent  
2 to entry of the court's order on the motion for modification.

3 (4) The adjustment or modification provision may be modified by the  
4 court due to economic hardship consistent with the provisions of RCW  
5 26.09.170(~~(+4)~~) (5)(a).

6 **Sec. 1014.** RCW 26.09.110 and 1987 c 460 s 11 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The court may appoint an attorney to represent the interests of a  
9 minor or dependent child with respect to provision for the parenting  
10 plan in an action for dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership,  
11 legal separation, or declaration concerning the validity of a marriage  
12 or domestic partnership. The court shall enter an order for costs,  
13 fees, and disbursements in favor of the child's attorney. The order  
14 shall be made against either or both parents, except that, if both  
15 parties are indigent, the costs, fees, and disbursements shall be borne  
16 by the county.

17 **Sec. 1015.** RCW 26.09.120 and 1994 c 230 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The court shall order support payments, including (~~(spousal)~~)  
20 maintenance if child support is ordered, to be made to the Washington  
21 state support registry, or the person entitled to receive the payments  
22 under an order approved by the court as provided in RCW 26.23.050.

23 (2) Maintenance payments, when ordered in an action where there is  
24 no dependent child, may be ordered to be paid to the person entitled to  
25 receive the payments, or the clerk of the court as trustee for  
26 remittance to the persons entitled to receive the payments.

27 (3) If support or maintenance payments are made to the clerk of  
28 court, the clerk:

29 (a) Shall maintain records listing the amount of payments, the date  
30 when payments are required to be made, and the names and addresses of  
31 the parties affected by the order;

32 (b) May by local court rule accept only certified funds or cash as  
33 payment; and

34 (c) Shall accept only certified funds or cash for five years in all  
35 cases after one check has been returned for nonsufficient funds or  
36 account closure.

1 (4) The parties affected by the order shall inform the registry  
2 through which the payments are ordered to be paid of any change of  
3 address or of other conditions that may affect the administration of  
4 the order.

5 **Sec. 1016.** RCW 26.09.150 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 205 and 1989 c  
6 375 s 30 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 A decree of dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, legal  
8 separation, or declaration of invalidity is final when entered, subject  
9 to the right of appeal. An appeal which does not challenge the finding  
10 that the marriage or domestic partnership is irretrievably broken or  
11 was invalid, does not delay the finality of the dissolution or  
12 declaration of invalidity and either party may remarry or enter into a  
13 domestic partnership pending such an appeal.

14 No earlier than six months after entry of a decree of legal  
15 separation, on motion of either party, the court shall convert the  
16 decree of legal separation to a decree of dissolution of marriage or  
17 domestic partnership. The clerk of court shall complete the  
18 certificate as provided for in RCW 70.58.200 on the form provided by  
19 the department of health. On or before the tenth day of each month,  
20 the clerk of the court shall forward to the state registrar of vital  
21 statistics the certificate of each decree of divorce, dissolution of  
22 marriage or domestic partnership, annulment, or separate maintenance  
23 granted during the preceding month.

24 Upon request of a party whose marriage or domestic partnership is  
25 dissolved or declared invalid, the court shall order a former name  
26 restored or the court may, in its discretion, order a change to another  
27 name.

28 **Sec. 1017.** RCW 26.09.170 and 2002 c 199 s 1 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7) of RCW  
31 26.09.070, the provisions of any decree respecting maintenance or  
32 support may be modified: (a) Only as to installments accruing  
33 subsequent to the petition for modification or motion for adjustment  
34 except motions to compel court-ordered adjustments, which shall be  
35 effective as of the first date specified in the decree for implementing  
36 the adjustment; and, (b) except as otherwise provided in subsections

1 (5), (6), (9), and (10) of this section, only upon a showing of a  
2 substantial change of circumstances. The provisions as to property  
3 disposition may not be revoked or modified, unless the court finds the  
4 existence of conditions that justify the reopening of a judgment under  
5 the laws of this state.

6 (2) Unless otherwise agreed in writing or expressly provided in the  
7 decree the obligation to pay future maintenance is terminated upon the  
8 death of either party or the remarriage of the party receiving  
9 maintenance or registration of a new domestic partnership of the party  
10 receiving maintenance.

11 (3) Unless otherwise agreed in writing or expressly provided in the  
12 decree, provisions for the support of a child are terminated by  
13 emancipation of the child or by the death of the parent obligated to  
14 support the child.

15 (4) Unless expressly provided by an order of the superior court or  
16 a court of comparable jurisdiction, the support provisions of the order  
17 are terminated upon the marriage or registration of a domestic  
18 partnership to each other of parties to a paternity order, or upon  
19 remarriage or registration of a domestic partnership to each other of  
20 parties to a decree of dissolution. The remaining provisions of the  
21 order, including provisions establishing paternity, remain in effect.

22 (5) An order of child support may be modified one year or more  
23 after it has been entered without showing a substantial change of  
24 circumstances:

25 (a) If the order in practice works a severe economic hardship on  
26 either party or the child;

27 (b) If a party requests an adjustment in an order for child support  
28 which was based on guidelines which determined the amount of support  
29 according to the child's age, and the child is no longer in the age  
30 category on which the current support amount was based;

31 (c) If a child is still in high school, upon a finding that there  
32 is a need to extend support beyond the eighteenth birthday to complete  
33 high school; or

34 (d) To add an automatic adjustment of support provision consistent  
35 with RCW 26.09.100.

36 (6) An order or decree entered prior to June 7, 1984, may be  
37 modified without showing a substantial change of circumstances if the  
38 requested modification is to:

1 (a) Require health insurance coverage for a child named therein; or

2 (b) Modify an existing order for health insurance coverage.

3 (7) An obligor's voluntary unemployment or voluntary  
4 underemployment, by itself, is not a substantial change of  
5 circumstances.

6 (8) The department of social and health services may file an action  
7 to modify an order of child support if public assistance money is being  
8 paid to or for the benefit of the child and the child support order is  
9 twenty-five percent or more below the appropriate child support amount  
10 set forth in the standard calculation as defined in RCW 26.19.011 and  
11 reasons for the deviation are not set forth in the findings of fact or  
12 order. The determination of twenty-five percent or more shall be based  
13 on the current income of the parties and the department shall not be  
14 required to show a substantial change of circumstances if the reasons  
15 for the deviations were not set forth in the findings of fact or order.

16 (9)(a) All child support decrees may be adjusted once every twenty-  
17 four months based upon changes in the income of the parents without a  
18 showing of substantially changed circumstances. Either party may  
19 initiate the adjustment by filing a motion and child support  
20 worksheets.

21 (b) A party may petition for modification in cases of substantially  
22 changed circumstances under subsection (1) of this section at any time.  
23 However, if relief is granted under subsection (1) of this section,  
24 twenty-four months must pass before a motion for an adjustment under  
25 (a) of this subsection may be filed.

26 (c) If, pursuant to (a) of this subsection or subsection (10) of  
27 this section, the court adjusts or modifies a child support obligation  
28 by more than thirty percent and the change would cause significant  
29 hardship, the court may implement the change in two equal increments,  
30 one at the time of the entry of the order and the second six months  
31 from the entry of the order. Twenty-four months must pass following  
32 the second change before a motion for an adjustment under (a) of this  
33 subsection may be filed.

34 (d) A parent who is receiving transfer payments who receives a wage  
35 or salary increase may not bring a modification action pursuant to  
36 subsection (1) of this section alleging that increase constitutes a  
37 substantial change of circumstances.

1 (e) The department of social and health services may file an action  
2 at any time to modify an order of child support in cases of  
3 substantially changed circumstances if public assistance money is being  
4 paid to or for the benefit of the child. The determination of the  
5 existence of substantially changed circumstances by the department that  
6 lead to the filing of an action to modify the order of child support is  
7 not binding upon the court.

8 (10) An order of child support may be adjusted twenty-four months  
9 from the date of the entry of the decree or the last adjustment or  
10 modification, whichever is later, based upon changes in the economic  
11 table or standards in chapter 26.19 RCW.

12 **Sec. 1018.** RCW 26.09.210 and 1987 c 460 s 15 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 The court may interview the child in chambers to ascertain the  
15 child's wishes as to the child's residential schedule in a proceeding  
16 for dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, legal separation,  
17 or declaration of invalidity. The court may permit counsel to be  
18 present at the interview. The court shall cause a record of the  
19 interview to be made and to be made part of the record in the case.

20 The court may seek the advice of professional personnel whether or  
21 not they are employed on a regular basis by the court. The advice  
22 given shall be in writing and shall be made available by the court to  
23 counsel upon request. Counsel may call for cross-examination any  
24 professional personnel consulted by the court.

25 **Sec. 1019.** RCW 26.09.255 and 1987 c 460 s 22 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (1) A relative(~~(, as defined in RCW 9A.40.010,)~~) may bring civil  
28 action against any other relative if, with intent to deny access to a  
29 child by that relative of the child who has a right to physical custody  
30 of or visitation with the child or a parent with whom the child resides  
31 pursuant to a parenting plan order, the relative takes, entices, or  
32 conceals the child from that relative. The plaintiff may be awarded,  
33 in addition to any damages awarded by the court, the reasonable  
34 expenses incurred by the plaintiff in locating the child, including,  
35 but not limited to, investigative services and reasonable attorneys'  
36 fees.

1        (2) "Relative" means an ancestor, descendant, or sibling including  
2 a relative of the same degree through marriage, domestic partnership,  
3 or adoption, or a spouse or domestic partner.

4        **Sec. 1020.** RCW 26.09.280 and 1991 c 367 s 10 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6        Every action or proceeding to change, modify, or enforce any final  
7 order, judgment, or decree entered in any dissolution or legal  
8 separation or declaration concerning the validity of a marriage or  
9 domestic partnership, whether under this chapter or prior law,  
10 regarding the parenting plan or child support for the minor children of  
11 the marriage or the domestic partnership may be brought in the county  
12 where the minor children are then residing, or in the court in which  
13 the final order, judgment, or decree was entered, or in the county  
14 where the parent or other person who has the care, custody, or control  
15 of the children is then residing.

16        **Sec. 1021.** RCW 26.09.290 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 157 s 29 are each  
17 amended to read as follows:

18        Whenever either of the parties in (~~(a divorce action)~~) an action  
19 for dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership is, under the law,  
20 entitled to a final judgment, but by mistake, negligence, or  
21 inadvertence the same has not been signed, filed, or entered, if no  
22 appeal has been taken from the interlocutory order or motion for a new  
23 trial made, the court, on the motion of either party thereto or upon  
24 its own motion, may cause a final judgment to be signed, dated, filed,  
25 and entered therein granting the (~~(divorce)~~) dissolution as of the date  
26 when the same could have been given or made by the court if applied  
27 for. The court may cause such final judgment to be signed, dated,  
28 filed, and entered nunc pro tunc as aforesaid, even though a final  
29 judgment may have been previously entered where by mistake, negligence  
30 or inadvertence the same has not been signed, filed, or entered as soon  
31 as such final judgment, the parties to such action shall be deemed to  
32 have been restored to the status of single persons as of the date  
33 affixed to such judgment, and any marriage or any domestic partnership  
34 of either of such parties subsequent to six months after the granting  
35 of the interlocutory order as shown by the minutes of the court, and

1 after the final judgment could have been entered under the law if  
2 applied for, shall be valid for all purposes as of the date affixed to  
3 such final judgment, upon the filing thereof.

4 **Sec. 1022.** RCW 26.09.310 and 1989 c 377 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 No health care provider or facility, or their agent, shall be  
7 liable for damages in any civil action brought by a parent or guardian  
8 based only on a lack of the parent or guardian's consent for medical  
9 care of a minor child, if consent to the care has been given by a  
10 parent or guardian of the minor. The immunity provided by this section  
11 shall apply regardless of whether:

12 (1) The parents are married, unmarried, in a domestic partnership  
13 or not, or separated at the time of consent or treatment;

14 (2) The consenting parent is, or is not, a custodial parent of the  
15 minor;

16 (3) The giving of consent by a parent is, or is not, full  
17 performance of any agreement between the parents, or of any order or  
18 decree in any action entered pursuant to chapter 26.09 RCW;

19 (4) The action or suit is brought by or on behalf of the  
20 nonconsenting parent, the minor child, or any other person.

21 **Sec. 1023.** RCW 26.10.050 and 1987 c 460 s 29 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 In a custody proceeding, the court may order either or both parents  
24 owing a duty of support to any child of the marriage or the domestic  
25 partnership dependent upon either or both spouses or either or both  
26 domestic partners to pay an amount reasonable or necessary for the  
27 child's support.

28 **Sec. 1024.** RCW 26.10.180 and 1989 c 375 s 21 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) A relative(~~(, as defined in RCW 9A.40.010,)~~) may bring civil  
31 action against any other relative who, with intent to deny access to a  
32 child by another relative of the child who has a right to physical  
33 custody of or visitation with the child, takes, entices, or conceals  
34 the child from that relative. The plaintiff may be awarded, in



1 addition to any damages awarded by the court, the reasonable expenses  
2 incurred by the plaintiff in locating the child, including, but not  
3 limited to, investigative services and reasonable attorneys' fees.

4 (2) "Relative" means an ancestor, descendant, or sibling including  
5 a relative of the same degree through marriage, domestic partnership,  
6 or adoption, or a spouse or domestic partner.

7 **Sec. 1025.** RCW 26.12.190 and 1991 c 367 s 14 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The family court shall have jurisdiction and full power in all  
10 pending cases to make, alter, modify, and enforce all temporary and  
11 permanent orders regarding the following: Parenting plans, child  
12 support, custody of children, visitation, possession of property,  
13 maintenance, contempt, custodial interference, and orders for  
14 attorneys' fees, suit money or costs as may appear just and equitable.  
15 Court commissioners or judges shall not have authority to require the  
16 parties to mediate disputes concerning child support.

17 (2) Family court investigation, evaluation, mediation, treatment,  
18 and reconciliation services, and any other services may be used to  
19 assist the court to develop an order as the court deems necessary to  
20 preserve the marriage or the domestic partnership, implement an  
21 amicable settlement, and resolve the issues in controversy.

22 **Sec. 1026.** RCW 26.18.010 and 1993 c 426 s 1 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 The legislature finds that there is an urgent need for vigorous  
25 enforcement of child support and (~~spousal~~) maintenance obligations,  
26 and that stronger and more efficient statutory remedies need to be  
27 established to supplement and complement the remedies provided in  
28 chapters 26.09, (~~26.21~~) 26.21A, 26.26, 74.20, and 74.20A RCW.

29 **Sec. 1027.** RCW 26.18.020 and 1993 c 426 s 2 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
32 this section apply throughout this chapter.

33 (1) "Dependent child" means any child for whom a support order has  
34 been established or for whom a duty of support is owed.

1 (2) "Duty of (~~spousal~~) maintenance" means the duty to provide for  
2 the needs of a spouse or former spouse or domestic partner or former  
3 domestic partner imposed under chapter 26.09 RCW.

4 (3) "Duty of support" means the duty to provide for the needs of a  
5 dependent child, which may include necessary food, clothing, shelter,  
6 education, and health care. The duty includes any obligation to make  
7 monetary payments, to pay expenses, including (~~spousal~~) maintenance  
8 in cases in which there is a dependent child, or to reimburse another  
9 person or an agency for the cost of necessary support furnished a  
10 dependent child. The duty may be imposed by court order, by operation  
11 of law, or otherwise.

12 (4) "Obligee" means the custodian of a dependent child, the spouse  
13 or former spouse or domestic partner or former domestic partner, or  
14 person or agency, to whom a duty of support or duty of (~~spousal~~)  
15 maintenance is owed, or the person or agency to whom the right to  
16 receive or collect support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance has been  
17 assigned.

18 (5) "Obligor" means the person owing a duty of support or duty of  
19 (~~spousal~~) maintenance.

20 (6) "Support or maintenance order" means any judgment, decree, or  
21 order of support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance issued by the superior  
22 court or authorized agency of the state of Washington; or a judgment,  
23 decree, or other order of support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance issued by  
24 a court or agency of competent jurisdiction in another state or  
25 country, which has been registered or otherwise made enforceable in  
26 this state.

27 (7) "Employer" includes the United States government, a state or  
28 local unit of government, and any person or entity who pays or owes  
29 earnings or remuneration for employment to the obligor.

30 (8) "Earnings" means compensation paid or payable for personal  
31 services or remuneration for employment, whether denominated as wages,  
32 salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and, notwithstanding any other  
33 provision of law making the payments exempt from garnishment,  
34 attachment, or other process to satisfy support or (~~spousal~~)  
35 maintenance obligations, specifically includes periodic payments  
36 pursuant to pension or retirement programs, or insurance policies of  
37 any type, but does not include payments made under Title 50 RCW, except  
38 as provided in RCW 50.40.020 and 50.40.050, or Title 74 RCW.

1 (9) "Disposable earnings" means that part of the earnings of an  
2 individual remaining after the deduction from those earnings of any  
3 amount required by law to be withheld.

4 (10) "Department" means the department of social and health  
5 services.

6 (11) "Health insurance coverage" includes any coverage under which  
7 medical services are provided by an employer or a union whether that  
8 coverage is provided through a self-insurance program, under the  
9 employee retirement income security act of 1974, a commercial insurer  
10 pursuant to chapters 48.20 and 48.21 RCW, a health care service  
11 contractor pursuant to chapter 48.44 RCW, or a health maintenance  
12 organization pursuant to chapter 48.46 RCW, and the state through  
13 chapter 41.05 RCW.

14 (12) "Insurer" means a commercial insurance company providing  
15 disability insurance under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care  
16 service contractor providing health care coverage under chapter 48.44  
17 RCW, a health maintenance organization providing comprehensive health  
18 care services under chapter 48.46 RCW, and shall also include any  
19 employer or union which is providing health insurance coverage on a  
20 self-insured basis.

21 (13) "Remuneration for employment" means moneys due from or payable  
22 by the United States to an individual within the scope of 42 U.S.C.  
23 Sec. 659 and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 662(f).

24 **Sec. 1028.** RCW 26.18.030 and 1993 c 426 s 3 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) The remedies provided in this chapter are in addition to, and  
27 not in substitution for, any other remedies provided by law.

28 (2) This chapter applies to any dependent child, whether born  
29 before or after June 7, 1984, and regardless of the past or current  
30 marital status or domestic partnership status of the parents, and to a  
31 spouse or former spouse or domestic partner or former domestic partner.

32 (3) This chapter shall be liberally construed to assure that all  
33 dependent children are adequately supported.

34 **Sec. 1029.** RCW 26.18.040 and 1993 c 426 s 4 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

1 (1) A proceeding to enforce a duty of support or (~~spousal~~)  
2 maintenance is commenced:

3 (a) By filing a petition for an original action; or

4 (b) By motion in an existing action or under an existing cause  
5 number.

6 (2) Venue for the action is in the superior court of the county  
7 where the dependent child resides or is present, where the obligor or  
8 obligee resides, or where the prior support or maintenance order was  
9 entered. The petition or motion may be filed by the obligee, the  
10 state, or any agency providing care or support to the dependent child.  
11 A filing fee shall not be assessed in cases brought on behalf of the  
12 state of Washington.

13 (3) The court retains continuing jurisdiction under this chapter  
14 until all duties of either support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance, or both,  
15 of the obligor, including arrearages, have been satisfied.

16 **Sec. 1030.** RCW 26.18.050 and 1993 c 426 s 5 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) If an obligor fails to comply with a support or (~~spousal~~)  
19 maintenance order, a petition or motion may be filed without notice  
20 under RCW 26.18.040 to initiate a contempt action as provided in  
21 chapter 7.21 RCW. If the court finds there is reasonable cause to  
22 believe the obligor has failed to comply with a support or (~~spousal~~)  
23 maintenance order, the court may issue an order to show cause requiring  
24 the obligor to appear at a certain time and place for a hearing, at  
25 which time the obligor may appear to show cause why the relief  
26 requested should not be granted. A copy of the petition or motion  
27 shall be served on the obligor along with the order to show cause.

28 (2) Service of the order to show cause shall be by personal  
29 service, or in the manner provided in the civil rules of superior court  
30 or applicable statute.

31 (3) If the order to show cause served upon the obligor included a  
32 warning that an arrest warrant could be issued for failure to appear,  
33 the court may issue a bench warrant for the arrest of the obligor if  
34 the obligor fails to appear on the return date provided in the order.

35 (4) If the obligor contends at the hearing that he or she lacked  
36 the means to comply with the support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance order,

1 the obligor shall establish that he or she exercised due diligence in  
2 seeking employment, in conserving assets, or otherwise in rendering  
3 himself or herself able to comply with the court's order.

4 (5) As provided in RCW 26.18.040, the court retains continuing  
5 jurisdiction under this chapter and may use a contempt action to  
6 enforce a support or maintenance order until the obligor satisfies all  
7 duties of support, including arrearages, that accrued pursuant to the  
8 support or maintenance order.

9 **Sec. 1031.** RCW 26.18.070 and 1994 c 230 s 3 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) A petition or motion seeking a mandatory wage assignment in an  
12 action under RCW 26.18.040 may be filed by an obligee if the obligor  
13 is:

14 (a) Subject to a support order allowing immediate income  
15 withholding; or

16 (b) More than fifteen days past due in child support or (~~spousal~~)  
17 maintenance payments in an amount equal to or greater than the  
18 obligation payable for one month.

19 (2) The petition or motion shall include a sworn statement by the  
20 obligee, stating the facts authorizing the issuance of the wage  
21 assignment order, including:

22 (a) That the obligor, stating his or her name and residence, is:

23 (i) Subject to a support order allowing immediate income  
24 withholding; or

25 (ii) More than fifteen days past due in child support or  
26 (~~spousal~~) maintenance payments in an amount equal to or greater than  
27 the obligation payable for one month;

28 (b) A description of the terms of the order requiring payment of  
29 support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance, and the amount past due, if any;

30 (c) The name and address of the obligor's employer;

31 (d) That notice by personal service or any form of mail requiring  
32 a return receipt, has been provided to the obligor at least fifteen  
33 days prior to the obligee seeking a mandatory wage assignment, unless  
34 the order for support or maintenance states that the obligee may seek  
35 a mandatory wage assignment without notice to the obligor; and

36 (e) In cases not filed by the state, whether the obligee has

1 received public assistance from any source and, if the obligee has  
2 received public assistance, that the department of social and health  
3 services has been notified in writing of the pending action.

4 (3) If the court in which a mandatory wage assignment is sought  
5 does not already have a copy of the support or maintenance order in the  
6 court file, then the obligee shall attach a copy of the support or  
7 maintenance order to the petition or motion seeking the wage  
8 assignment.

9 **Sec. 1032.** RCW 26.18.090 and 1993 c 426 s 7 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The wage assignment order in RCW 26.18.080 shall include:

12 (a) The maximum amount of current support or (~~spousal~~)  
13 maintenance, if any, to be withheld from the obligor's earnings each  
14 month, or from each earnings disbursement; and

15 (b) The total amount of the arrearage or reimbursement judgment  
16 previously entered by the court, if any, together with interest, if  
17 any.

18 (2) The total amount to be withheld from the obligor's earnings  
19 each month, or from each earnings disbursement, shall not exceed fifty  
20 percent of the disposable earnings of the obligor. If the amounts to  
21 be paid toward the arrearage are specified in the support or  
22 (~~spousal~~) maintenance order, then the maximum amount to be withheld  
23 is the sum of: Either the current support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance  
24 ordered, or both; and the amount ordered to be paid toward the  
25 arrearage, or fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the obligor,  
26 whichever is less.

27 (3) The provisions of RCW 6.27.150 do not apply to wage assignments  
28 for child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance authorized under this  
29 chapter, but fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the obligor  
30 are exempt, and may be disbursed to the obligor.

31 (4) If an obligor is subject to two or more attachments for child  
32 support on account of different obligees, the employer shall, if the  
33 nonexempt portion of the obligor's earnings is not sufficient to  
34 respond fully to all the attachments, apportion the obligor's nonexempt  
35 disposable earnings between or among the various obligees equally. Any  
36 obligee may seek a court order reapportioning the obligor's nonexempt

1 disposable earnings upon notice to all interested obligees. Notice  
2 shall be by personal service, or in the manner provided by the civil  
3 rules of superior court or applicable statute.

4 (5) If an obligor is subject to two or more attachments for  
5 (~~spousal~~) maintenance on account of different obligees, the employer  
6 shall, if the nonexempt portion of the obligor's earnings is not  
7 sufficient to respond fully to all the attachments, apportion the  
8 obligor's nonexempt disposable earnings between or among the various  
9 obligees equally. An obligee may seek a court order reapportioning the  
10 obligor's nonexempt disposable earnings upon notice to all interested  
11 obligees. Notice shall be by personal service, or in the manner  
12 provided by the civil rules of superior court or applicable statute.

13 **Sec. 1033.** RCW 26.18.100 and 1998 c 77 s 1 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 The wage assignment order shall be substantially in the following  
16 form:

17 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
18 STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE  
19 COUNTY OF .....

20 .....,  
21 Obligee No. ....

22 vs.

23 ....., WAGE ASSIGNMENT  
24 Obligor ORDER

25 .....,  
26 Employer

27 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: .....  
28 Employer

29 AND TO: .....  
30 Obligor

31 The above-named obligee claims that the above-named obligor is  
32 subject to a support order requiring immediate income withholding or is  
33 more than fifteen days past due in either child support or (~~spousal~~)  
34 maintenance payments, or both, in an amount equal to or greater than  
35 the child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance payable for one month.  
36 The amount of the accrued child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance debt

1 as of this date is . . . . . dollars, the amount of arrearage  
2 payments specified in the support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance order (if  
3 applicable) is . . . . . dollars per . . . . ., and the amount of  
4 the current and continuing support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance  
5 obligation under the order is . . . . . dollars per . . . . .

6 You are hereby commanded to answer this order by filling in the  
7 attached form according to the instructions, and you must mail or  
8 deliver the original of the answer to the court, one copy to the  
9 Washington state support registry, one copy to the obligee or obligee's  
10 attorney, and one copy to the obligor within twenty days after service  
11 of this wage assignment order upon you.

12 If you possess any earnings or other remuneration for employment  
13 due and owing to the obligor, then you shall do as follows:

14 (1) Withhold from the obligor's earnings or remuneration each  
15 month, or from each regular earnings disbursement, the lesser of:

16 (a) The sum of the accrued support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance debt  
17 and the current support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance obligation;

18 (b) The sum of the specified arrearage payment amount and the  
19 current support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance obligation; or

20 (c) Fifty percent of the disposable earnings or remuneration of the  
21 obligor.

22 (2) The total amount withheld above is subject to the wage  
23 assignment order, and all other sums may be disbursed to the obligor.

24 (3) Upon receipt of this wage assignment order you shall make  
25 immediate deductions from the obligor's earnings or remuneration and  
26 remit to the Washington state support registry or other address  
27 specified below the proper amounts within five working days of each  
28 regular pay interval.

29 You shall continue to withhold the ordered amounts from nonexempt  
30 earnings or remuneration of the obligor until notified by:

31 (a) The court that the wage assignment has been modified or  
32 terminated; or

33 (b) The addressee specified in the wage assignment order under this  
34 section that the accrued child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance debt  
35 has been paid.

36 You shall promptly notify the court and the addressee specified in  
37 the wage assignment order under this section if and when the employee  
38 is no longer employed by you, or if the obligor no longer receives



1 earnings or remuneration from you. If you no longer employ the  
2 employee, the wage assignment order shall remain in effect until you  
3 are no longer in possession of any earnings or remuneration owed to the  
4 employee.

5 You shall deliver the withheld earnings or remuneration to the  
6 Washington state support registry or other address stated below within  
7 five working days of each regular pay interval.

8 You shall deliver a copy of this order to the obligor as soon as is  
9 reasonably possible. This wage assignment order has priority over any  
10 other wage assignment or garnishment, except for another wage  
11 assignment or garnishment for child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance,  
12 or order to withhold or deliver under chapter 74.20A RCW.

13 WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE OBLIGOR, YOUR FAILURE TO  
14 ANSWER AS REQUIRED MAY MAKE YOU LIABLE FOR THE AMOUNT OF  
15 SUPPORT MONEYS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITHHELD FROM THE  
16 OBLIGOR'S EARNINGS OR SUBJECT TO CONTEMPT OF COURT.

17 NOTICE TO OBLIGOR: YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING IN THE  
18 SUPERIOR COURT THAT ISSUED THIS WAGE ASSIGNMENT ORDER, TO REQUEST THAT  
19 THE COURT QUASH, MODIFY, OR TERMINATE THE WAGE ASSIGNMENT ORDER.  
20 REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT YOUR WAGES ARE BEING WITHHELD PURSUANT TO  
21 THIS ORDER, YOU MAY HAVE SUSPENDED OR NOT RENEWED A PROFESSIONAL,  
22 DRIVER'S, OR OTHER LICENSE IF YOU ACCRUE CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES  
23 TOTALING MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS OR FAIL TO MAKE  
24 PAYMENTS TOWARDS A SUPPORT ARREARAGE IN AN AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS SIX  
25 MONTHS OF PAYMENTS.

26 DATED THIS . . . . day of . . . ., 19. . .

27  
28 .....  
29 Oblige, Judge/Court Commissioner  
30 or obligee's attorney  
31 Send withheld payments to: .....  
32 .....  
33 .....  
34 .....

1           **Sec. 1034.** RCW 26.18.110 and 1998 c 77 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3           (1) An employer upon whom service of a wage assignment order has  
4 been made shall answer the order by sworn affidavit within twenty days  
5 after the date of service. The answer shall state whether the obligor  
6 is employed by or receives earnings or other remuneration from the  
7 employer, whether the employer will honor the wage assignment order,  
8 and whether there are either multiple child support or (~~spousal~~)  
9 maintenance attachments, or both, against the obligor.

10           (2) If the employer possesses any earnings or remuneration due and  
11 owing to the obligor, the earnings subject to the wage assignment order  
12 shall be withheld immediately upon receipt of the wage assignment  
13 order. The withheld earnings shall be delivered to the Washington  
14 state support registry or, if the wage assignment order is to satisfy  
15 a duty of (~~spousal~~) maintenance, to the addressee specified in the  
16 assignment within five working days of each regular pay interval.

17           (3) The employer shall continue to withhold the ordered amounts  
18 from nonexempt earnings or remuneration of the obligor until notified  
19 by:

20           (a) The court that the wage assignment has been modified or  
21 terminated; or

22           (b) The Washington state support registry or obligee that the  
23 accrued child support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance debt has been paid,  
24 provided the wage assignment order contains the language set forth  
25 under RCW 26.18.100(3)(b). The employer shall promptly notify the  
26 addressee specified in the assignment when the employee is no longer  
27 employed. If the employer no longer employs the employee, the wage  
28 assignment order shall remain in effect for one year after the employee  
29 has left the employment or the employer has been in possession of any  
30 earnings or remuneration owed to the employee, whichever is later. The  
31 employer shall continue to hold the wage assignment order during that  
32 period. If the employee returns to the employer's employment during  
33 the one-year period the employer shall immediately begin to withhold  
34 the employee's earnings or remuneration according to the terms of the  
35 wage assignment order. If the employee has not returned within one  
36 year, the wage assignment shall cease to have effect at the expiration  
37 of the one-year period, unless the employer continues to owe  
38 remuneration for employment to the obligor.

1 (4) The employer may deduct a processing fee from the remainder of  
2 the employee's earnings after withholding under the wage assignment  
3 order, even if the remainder is exempt under RCW 26.18.090. The  
4 processing fee may not exceed (a) ten dollars for the first  
5 disbursement made by the employer to the Washington state support  
6 registry; and (b) one dollar for each subsequent disbursement to the  
7 clerk.

8 (5) An order for wage assignment for support for a dependent child  
9 entered under this chapter shall have priority over any other wage  
10 assignment or garnishment, except for another wage assignment or  
11 garnishment for child support, or order to withhold and deliver under  
12 chapter 74.20A RCW. An order for wage assignment for spousal  
13 maintenance entered under this chapter shall have priority over any  
14 other wage assignment or garnishment, except for a wage assignment,  
15 garnishment, or order to withhold and deliver under chapter 74.20A RCW  
16 for support of a dependent child, and except for another wage  
17 assignment or garnishment for (~~spousal~~) maintenance.

18 (6) An employer who fails to withhold earnings as required by a  
19 wage assignment issued under this chapter may be held liable to the  
20 obligee for one hundred percent of the support or (~~spousal~~)  
21 maintenance debt, or the amount of support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance  
22 moneys that should have been withheld from the employee's earnings  
23 whichever is the lesser amount, if the employer:

24 (a) Fails or refuses, after being served with a wage assignment  
25 order, to deduct and promptly remit from the unpaid earnings the  
26 amounts of money required in the order;

27 (b) Fails or refuses to submit an answer to the notice of wage  
28 assignment after being served; or

29 (c) Is unwilling to comply with the other requirements of this  
30 section.

31 Liability may be established in superior court. Awards in superior  
32 court shall include costs, interest under RCW 19.52.020 and 4.56.110,  
33 and reasonable attorneys' fees.

34 (7) No employer who complies with a wage assignment issued under  
35 this chapter may be liable to the employee for wrongful withholding.

36 (8) No employer may discharge, discipline, or refuse to hire an  
37 employee because of the entry or service of a wage assignment issued  
38 and executed under this chapter. If an employer discharges,

1 disciplines, or refuses to hire an employee in violation of this  
2 section, the employee or person shall have a cause of action against  
3 the employer. The employer shall be liable for double the amount of  
4 damages suffered as a result of the violation and for costs and  
5 reasonable attorneys' fees, and shall be subject to a civil penalty of  
6 not more than two thousand five hundred dollars for each violation.  
7 The employer may also be ordered to hire, rehire, or reinstate the  
8 aggrieved individual.

9 (9) For wage assignments payable to the Washington state support  
10 registry, an employer may combine amounts withheld from various  
11 employees into a single payment to the Washington state support  
12 registry, if the payment includes a listing of the amounts attributable  
13 to each employee and other information as required by the registry.

14 (10) An employer shall deliver a copy of the wage assignment order  
15 to the obligor as soon as is reasonably possible.

16 **Sec. 1035.** RCW 26.18.120 and 1993 c 426 s 10 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 The answer of the employer shall be made on forms, served on the  
19 employer with the wage assignment order, substantially as follows:

20 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
21 STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE  
22 COUNTY OF .....

23 ..... No. ....  
24 Obligee  
25 vs. ANSWER  
26 ..... TO WAGE  
27 Obligor ASSIGNMENT ORDER  
28 .....  
29 Employer

30 1. At the time of the service of the wage assignment  
31 order on the employer, was the above-named obligor  
32 employed by or receiving earnings or other remuneration  
33 for employment from the employer?

34 Yes ..... No ..... (check one).

1 2. Are there any other attachments for child support or  
2 ((spousal)) maintenance currently in effect against the  
3 obligor?

4 Yes ..... No ..... (check one).

5 3. If the answer to question one is yes and the employer  
6 cannot comply with the wage assignment order, provide an  
7 explanation:  
8

9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the  
10 state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

11 .....

12 Signature of employer Date and place

13 .....

14 .....

15 Signature of person Address for future notice  
16 answering for employer to employer

17 .....

18 Connection with employer

19 **Sec. 1036.** RCW 26.18.140 and 1994 c 230 s 6 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, in a  
22 hearing to quash, modify, or terminate the wage assignment order, the  
23 court may grant relief only upon a showing that the wage assignment  
24 order causes extreme hardship or substantial injustice. Satisfaction  
25 by the obligor of all past due payments subsequent to the issuance of  
26 the wage assignment order is not grounds to quash, modify, or terminate  
27 the wage assignment order. If a wage assignment order has been in  
28 operation for twelve consecutive months and the obligor's support or  
29 ((spousal)) maintenance obligation is current, the court may terminate  
30 the order upon motion of the obligor unless the obligee can show good  
31 cause as to why the wage assignment order should remain in effect.

32 (2) The court may enter an order delaying, modifying, or  
33 terminating the wage assignment order and order the obligor to make  
34 payments directly to the obligee as provided in RCW 26.23.050(2).

1       **Sec. 1037.** RCW 26.18.150 and 1993 c 426 s 12 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) In any action to enforce a support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance  
4 order under Title 26 RCW, the court may, in its discretion, order a  
5 parent obligated to pay support for a minor child or person owing a  
6 duty of (~~spousal~~) maintenance to post a bond or other security with  
7 the court. The bond or other security shall be in the amount of  
8 support or (~~spousal~~) maintenance due for a two-year period. The bond  
9 or other security is subject to approval by the court. The bond shall  
10 include the name and address of the issuer. If the bond is canceled,  
11 any person issuing a bond under this section shall notify the court and  
12 the person entitled to receive payment under the order.

13       (2) If the obligor fails to make payments as required under the  
14 court order, the person entitled to receive payment may recover on the  
15 bond or other security in the existing proceeding. The court may,  
16 after notice and hearing, increase the amount of the bond or other  
17 security. Failure to comply with the court's order to obtain and  
18 maintain a bond or other security may be treated as contempt of court.

19       **Sec. 1038.** RCW 26.19.071 and 1997 c 59 s 4 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21       (1) **Consideration of all income.** All income and resources of each  
22 parent's household shall be disclosed and considered by the court when  
23 the court determines the child support obligation of each parent. Only  
24 the income of the parents of the children whose support is at issue  
25 shall be calculated for purposes of calculating the basic support  
26 obligation. Income and resources of any other person shall not be  
27 included in calculating the basic support obligation.

28       (2) **Verification of income.** Tax returns for the preceding two  
29 years and current paystubs shall be provided to verify income and  
30 deductions. Other sufficient verification shall be required for income  
31 and deductions which do not appear on tax returns or paystubs.

32       (3) **Income sources included in gross monthly income.** Except as  
33 specifically excluded in subsection (4) of this section, monthly gross  
34 income shall include income from any source, including:

- 35       (a) Salaries;
- 36       (b) Wages;
- 37       (c) Commissions;

- 1 (d) Deferred compensation;
- 2 (e) Overtime;
- 3 (f) Contract-related benefits;
- 4 (g) Income from second jobs;
- 5 (h) Dividends;
- 6 (i) Interest;
- 7 (j) Trust income;
- 8 (k) Severance pay;
- 9 (l) Annuities;
- 10 (m) Capital gains;
- 11 (n) Pension retirement benefits;
- 12 (o) Workers' compensation;
- 13 (p) Unemployment benefits;
- 14 (q) (~~Spousal~~) Maintenance actually received;
- 15 (r) Bonuses;
- 16 (s) Social security benefits; and
- 17 (t) Disability insurance benefits.

18 (4) **Income sources excluded from gross monthly income.** The  
19 following income and resources shall be disclosed but shall not be  
20 included in gross income:

- 21 (a) Income of a new spouse or new domestic partner or income of  
22 other adults in the household;
- 23 (b) Child support received from other relationships;
- 24 (c) Gifts and prizes;
- 25 (d) Temporary assistance for needy families;
- 26 (e) Supplemental security income;
- 27 (f) General assistance; and
- 28 (g) Food stamps.

29 Receipt of income and resources from temporary assistance for needy  
30 families, supplemental security income, general assistance, and food  
31 stamps shall not be a reason to deviate from the standard calculation.

32 (5) **Determination of net income.** The following expenses shall be  
33 disclosed and deducted from gross monthly income to calculate net  
34 monthly income:

- 35 (a) Federal and state income taxes;
- 36 (b) Federal insurance contributions act deductions;
- 37 (c) Mandatory pension plan payments;
- 38 (d) Mandatory union or professional dues;

1 (e) State industrial insurance premiums;

2 (f) Court-ordered (~~spousal~~) maintenance to the extent actually  
3 paid;

4 (g) Up to two thousand dollars per year in voluntary pension  
5 payments actually made if the contributions were made for the two tax  
6 years preceding the earlier of the (i) tax year in which the parties  
7 separated with intent to live separate and apart or (ii) tax year in  
8 which the parties filed for dissolution; and

9 (h) Normal business expenses and self-employment taxes for self-  
10 employed persons. Justification shall be required for any business  
11 expense deduction about which there is disagreement.

12 Items deducted from gross income under this subsection shall not be  
13 a reason to deviate from the standard calculation.

14 (6) **Imputation of income.** The court shall impute income to a  
15 parent when the parent is voluntarily unemployed or voluntarily  
16 underemployed. The court shall determine whether the parent is  
17 voluntarily underemployed or voluntarily unemployed based upon that  
18 parent's work history, education, health, and age, or any other  
19 relevant factors. A court shall not impute income to a parent who is  
20 gainfully employed on a full-time basis, unless the court finds that  
21 the parent is voluntarily underemployed and finds that the parent is  
22 purposely underemployed to reduce the parent's child support  
23 obligation. Income shall not be imputed for an unemployable parent.  
24 Income shall not be imputed to a parent to the extent the parent is  
25 unemployed or significantly underemployed due to the parent's efforts  
26 to comply with court-ordered reunification efforts under chapter 13.34  
27 RCW or under a voluntary placement agreement with an agency supervising  
28 the child. In the absence of information to the contrary, a parent's  
29 imputed income shall be based on the median income of year-round full-  
30 time workers as derived from the United States bureau of census,  
31 current populations reports, or such replacement report as published by  
32 the bureau of census.

33 **Sec. 1039.** RCW 26.19.075 and 1997 c 59 s 5 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) Reasons for deviation from the standard calculation include but  
36 are not limited to the following:



1 (a) **Sources of income and tax planning.** The court may deviate from  
2 the standard calculation after consideration of the following:

3 (i) Income of a new spouse or new domestic partner if the parent  
4 who is married to the new spouse or in a partnership with a new  
5 domestic partner is asking for a deviation based on any other reason.  
6 Income of a new spouse or new domestic partner is not, by itself, a  
7 sufficient reason for deviation;

8 (ii) Income of other adults in the household if the parent who is  
9 living with the other adult is asking for a deviation based on any  
10 other reason. Income of the other adults in the household is not, by  
11 itself, a sufficient reason for deviation;

12 (iii) Child support actually received from other relationships;

13 (iv) Gifts;

14 (v) Prizes;

15 (vi) Possession of wealth, including but not limited to savings,  
16 investments, real estate holdings and business interests, vehicles,  
17 boats, pensions, bank accounts, insurance plans, or other assets;

18 (vii) Extraordinary income of a child; or

19 (viii) Tax planning considerations. A deviation for tax planning  
20 may be granted only if the child would not receive a lesser economic  
21 benefit due to the tax planning.

22 (b) **Nonrecurring income.** The court may deviate from the standard  
23 calculation based on a finding that a particular source of income  
24 included in the calculation of the basic support obligation is not a  
25 recurring source of income. Depending on the circumstances,  
26 nonrecurring income may include overtime, contract-related benefits,  
27 bonuses, or income from second jobs. Deviations for nonrecurring  
28 income shall be based on a review of the nonrecurring income received  
29 in the previous two calendar years.

30 (c) **Debt and high expenses.** The court may deviate from the  
31 standard calculation after consideration of the following expenses:

32 (i) Extraordinary debt not voluntarily incurred;

33 (ii) A significant disparity in the living costs of the parents due  
34 to conditions beyond their control;

35 (iii) Special needs of disabled children;

36 (iv) Special medical, educational, or psychological needs of the  
37 children; or

1 (v) Costs incurred or anticipated to be incurred by the parents in  
2 compliance with court-ordered reunification efforts under chapter 13.34  
3 RCW or under a voluntary placement agreement with an agency supervising  
4 the child.

5 (d) **Residential schedule.** The court may deviate from the standard  
6 calculation if the child spends a significant amount of time with the  
7 parent who is obligated to make a support transfer payment. The court  
8 may not deviate on that basis if the deviation will result in  
9 insufficient funds in the household receiving the support to meet the  
10 basic needs of the child or if the child is receiving temporary  
11 assistance for needy families. When determining the amount of the  
12 deviation, the court shall consider evidence concerning the increased  
13 expenses to a parent making support transfer payments resulting from  
14 the significant amount of time spent with that parent and shall  
15 consider the decreased expenses, if any, to the party receiving the  
16 support resulting from the significant amount of time the child spends  
17 with the parent making the support transfer payment.

18 (e) **Children from other relationships.** The court may deviate from  
19 the standard calculation when either or both of the parents before the  
20 court have children from other relationships to whom the parent owes a  
21 duty of support.

22 (i) The child support schedule shall be applied to the mother,  
23 father, and children of the family before the court to determine the  
24 presumptive amount of support.

25 (ii) Children from other relationships shall not be counted in the  
26 number of children for purposes of determining the basic support  
27 obligation and the standard calculation.

28 (iii) When considering a deviation from the standard calculation  
29 for children from other relationships, the court may consider only  
30 other children to whom the parent owes a duty of support. The court  
31 may consider court-ordered payments of child support for children from  
32 other relationships only to the extent that the support is actually  
33 paid.

34 (iv) When the court has determined that either or both parents have  
35 children from other relationships, deviations under this section shall  
36 be based on consideration of the total circumstances of both  
37 households. All child support obligations paid, received, and owed for  
38 all children shall be disclosed and considered.

1 (2) All income and resources of the parties before the court, new  
2 spouses or new domestic partners, and other adults in the households  
3 shall be disclosed and considered as provided in this section. The  
4 presumptive amount of support shall be determined according to the  
5 child support schedule. Unless specific reasons for deviation are set  
6 forth in the written findings of fact and are supported by the  
7 evidence, the court shall order each parent to pay the amount of  
8 support determined by using the standard calculation.

9 (3) The court shall enter findings that specify reasons for any  
10 deviation or any denial of a party's request for any deviation from the  
11 standard calculation made by the court. The court shall not consider  
12 reasons for deviation until the court determines the standard  
13 calculation for each parent.

14 (4) When reasons exist for deviation, the court shall exercise  
15 discretion in considering the extent to which the factors would affect  
16 the support obligation.

17 (5) Agreement of the parties is not by itself adequate reason for  
18 any deviations from the standard calculation.

19 **Sec. 1040.** RCW 26.20.035 and 2002 c 331 s 7 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any  
22 person who is able to provide support, or has the ability to earn the  
23 means to provide support, and who:

24 (a) Willfully omits to provide necessary food, clothing, shelter,  
25 or medical attendance to a child dependent upon him or her; or

26 (b) Willfully omits to provide necessary food, clothing, shelter,  
27 or medical attendance to his or her spouse or his or her domestic  
28 partner,

29 is guilty of the crime of family nonsupport.

30 (2) A parent of a newborn who transfers the newborn to a qualified  
31 person at an appropriate location pursuant to RCW 13.34.360 is not  
32 subject to criminal liability under this section.

33 (3) The crime of family nonsupport is a gross misdemeanor under  
34 chapter 9A.20 RCW.

35 **Sec. 1041.** RCW 26.20.071 and 1963 c 10 s 1 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 In any proceedings relating to nonsupport or family desertion the  
2 laws attaching a privilege against the disclosure of communications  
3 between (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or domestic partners shall be  
4 inapplicable and both (~~husband and wife~~) spouses or domestic partners  
5 in such proceedings shall be competent witnesses to testify to any  
6 relevant matter, including marriage, domestic partnership, and  
7 parentage.

8 **Sec. 1042.** RCW 26.20.080 and 1984 c 260 s 28 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 Proof of the nonsupport of a spouse or domestic partner or of a  
11 child or children, or the omission to furnish necessary food, clothing,  
12 shelter, or medical attendance for a spouse or domestic partner, or for  
13 a child or children, is prima facie evidence that the nonsupport or  
14 omission to furnish food, clothing, shelter, or medical attendance is  
15 wilful. The provisions of RCW 26.20.030 and 26.20.035 are applicable  
16 regardless of the marital or domestic partnership status of the person  
17 who has a child dependent upon him or her, and regardless of the  
18 nonexistence of any decree requiring payment of support or maintenance.

19 **Sec. 1043.** RCW 26.21A.010 and 2002 c 198 s 102 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 In this chapter:

22 (1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of  
23 majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the  
24 individual's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a  
25 support order directed to the parent.

26 (2) "Child support order" means a support order for a child,  
27 including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of  
28 the issuing state.

29 (3) "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by  
30 law to provide support for a child, spouse, domestic partner, former  
31 domestic partner, or former spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation  
32 to provide support.

33 (4) "Home state" means the state in which a child lived with a  
34 parent or a person acting as parent for at least six consecutive months  
35 immediately preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable  
36 pleading for support and, if a child is less than six months old, the

1 state in which the child lived from birth with any of them. A period  
2 of temporary absence of any of them is counted as part of the six-month  
3 or other period.

4 (5) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to  
5 money from any source and any other property subject to withholding for  
6 support under the law of this state.

7 (6) "Income-withholding order" means an order or other legal  
8 process directed to an obligor's employer or other debtor, as defined  
9 by RCW 50.04.080, to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

10 (7) "Initiating state" means a state from which a proceeding is  
11 forwarded or in which a proceeding is filed for forwarding to a  
12 responding state under this chapter or a law or procedure substantially  
13 similar to this chapter.

14 (8) "Initiating tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in an  
15 initiating state.

16 (9) "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a  
17 support order or renders a judgment determining parentage.

18 (10) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal that issues a support  
19 order or renders a judgment determining parentage.

20 (11) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules having  
21 the force of law.

22 (12) "Obligee" means:

23 (a) An individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be  
24 owed or in whose favor a support order has been issued or a judgment  
25 determining parentage has been rendered;

26 (b) A state or political subdivision to which the rights under a  
27 duty of support or support order have been assigned or which has  
28 independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an  
29 individual obligee; or

30 (c) An individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the  
31 individual's child.

32 (13) "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent:

33 (a) Who owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

34 (b) Who is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of  
35 a child; or

36 (c) Who is liable under a support order.

37 (14) "Person" means: An individual, corporation, business trust,  
38 estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association,

1 joint venture, government; governmental subdivision, agency, or  
2 instrumentality; public corporation; or any other legal or commercial  
3 entity.

4 (15) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible  
5 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is  
6 retrievable in perceivable form.

7 (16) "Register" means to record or file a support order or judgment  
8 determining parentage in the appropriate location for the recording or  
9 filing of foreign judgments generally or foreign support orders  
10 specifically.

11 (17) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support  
12 order is registered.

13 (18) "Responding state" means a state in which a proceeding is  
14 filed or to which a proceeding is forwarded for filing from an  
15 initiating state under this chapter or a law or procedure substantially  
16 similar to this chapter.

17 (19) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a  
18 responding state.

19 (20) "Spousal or domestic partner support order" means a support  
20 order for a spouse or domestic partner or former domestic partner or  
21 former spouse of the obligor.

22 (21) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
23 Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any  
24 territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the  
25 United States. The term includes:

- 26 (a) An Indian tribe; and
- 27 (b) A foreign country or political subdivision that:
  - 28 (i) Has been declared to be a foreign reciprocating country or
  - 29 political subdivision under federal law;
  - 30 (ii) Has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support
  - 31 with this state as provided in RCW 26.21A.235; or
  - 32 (iii) Has enacted a law or established procedures for issuance and
  - 33 enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the
  - 34 procedures under this chapter.

35 (22) "Support enforcement agency" means a public official or agency  
36 authorized to seek:

- 37 (a) Enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of
- 38 support;

- 1 (b) Establishment or modification of child support;  
2 (c) Determination of parentage;  
3 (d) Location of obligors or their assets; or  
4 (e) Determination of the controlling child support order.

5 (23) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, order, or directive,  
6 whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, issued by a  
7 tribunal for the benefit of a child, a spouse or domestic partner, or  
8 a former spouse or former domestic partner, that provides for monetary  
9 support, health care, arrearages, or reimbursement, and may include  
10 related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, attorneys' fees,  
11 and other relief.

12 (24) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-  
13 judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support  
14 orders or to determine parentage.

15 **Sec. 1044.** RCW 26.21A.150 and 2002 c 198 s 211 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) A tribunal of this state issuing a spousal or domestic partner  
18 support order consistent with the law of this state has continuing,  
19 exclusive jurisdiction to modify the spousal or domestic partner  
20 support order throughout the existence of the support obligation.

21 (2) A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal or domestic  
22 partner support order issued by a tribunal of another state having  
23 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the law of  
24 that state.

25 (3) A tribunal of this state that has continuing, exclusive  
26 jurisdiction over a spousal or domestic partner support order may serve  
27 as:

28 (a) An initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state  
29 to enforce the spousal or domestic partner support order issued in this  
30 state; or

31 (b) A responding tribunal to enforce or modify its own spousal or  
32 domestic partner support order.

33 **Sec. 1045.** RCW 26.21A.275 and 2002 c 198 s 316 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The physical presence of a nonresident party who is an

1 individual in a tribunal of this state is not required for the  
2 establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order or the  
3 rendition of a judgment determining parentage.

4 (2) An affidavit, a document substantially complying with federally  
5 mandated forms, or a document incorporated by reference in any of them,  
6 that would not be excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person,  
7 is admissible in evidence if given under penalty of perjury by a party  
8 or witness residing in another state.

9 (3) A copy of the record of child support payments certified as a  
10 true copy of the original by the custodian of the record may be  
11 forwarded to a responding tribunal. The copy is evidence of facts  
12 asserted in it, and is admissible to show whether payments were made.

13 (4) Copies of bills for testing for parentage, and for prenatal and  
14 postnatal health care of the mother and child, furnished to the adverse  
15 party at least ten days before trial, are admissible in evidence to  
16 prove the amount of the charges billed and that the charges were  
17 reasonable, necessary, and customary.

18 (5) Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a  
19 tribunal of this state by telephone, telecopier, or other means that do  
20 not provide an original record may not be excluded from evidence on an  
21 objection based on the means of transmission.

22 (6) In a proceeding under this chapter, a tribunal of this state  
23 shall permit a party or witness residing in another state to be deposed  
24 or to testify under penalty of perjury by telephone, audiovisual means,  
25 or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other location in  
26 that state. A tribunal of this state shall cooperate with tribunals of  
27 other states in designating an appropriate location for the deposition  
28 or testimony.

29 (7) If a party called to testify at a civil hearing refuses to  
30 answer on the ground that the testimony may be self-incriminating, the  
31 trier of fact may draw an adverse inference from the refusal.

32 (8) A privilege against disclosure of communications between  
33 spouses or domestic partners does not apply in a proceeding under this  
34 chapter.

35 (9) The defense of immunity based on the relationship of (~~husband~~  
36 ~~and wife~~) spouses or relationship of domestic partners or parent and  
37 child does not apply in a proceeding under this chapter.



1 (10) A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, certified as a true  
2 copy, is admissible to establish parentage of the child.

3 **Sec. 1046.** RCW 26.09.015 and 2007 c 496 s 602 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) In any proceeding under this chapter, the matter may be set for  
6 mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent with the setting  
7 of the matter for hearing. The purpose of the mediation proceeding  
8 shall be to reduce acrimony which may exist between the parties and to  
9 develop an agreement assuring the child's close and continuing contact  
10 with both parents after the marriage or the domestic partnership is  
11 dissolved. The mediator shall use his or her best efforts to effect a  
12 settlement of the dispute.

13 (2) Each superior court may make available a mediator. The  
14 mediator may be a member of the professional staff of a family court or  
15 mental health services agency, or may be any other person or agency  
16 designated by the court. In order to provide mediation services, the  
17 court is not required to institute a family court.

18 (3)(a) Mediation proceedings under this chapter shall be governed  
19 in all respects by chapter 7.07 RCW, except as follows:

20 (i) Mediation communications in postdecree mediations mandated by  
21 a parenting plan are admissible in subsequent proceedings for the  
22 limited purpose of proving:

23 (A) Abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, or unlawful  
24 harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1), of a child;

25 (B) Abuse or unlawful harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1), of  
26 a family or household member as defined in RCW 26.50.010(2); or

27 (C) That a parent used or frustrated the dispute resolution process  
28 without good reason for purposes of RCW 26.09.184(4)(d).

29 (ii) If a postdecree mediation-arbitration proceeding is required  
30 pursuant to a parenting plan and the same person acts as both mediator  
31 and arbitrator, mediation communications in the mediation phase of such  
32 a proceeding may be admitted during the arbitration phase, and shall be  
33 admissible in the judicial review of such a proceeding under RCW  
34 26.09.184(4)(e) to the extent necessary for such review to be  
35 effective.

36 (b) None of the exceptions under (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection  
37 shall subject a mediator to compulsory process to testify except by

1 court order for good cause shown, taking into consideration the need  
2 for the mediator's testimony and the interest in the mediator  
3 maintaining an appearance of impartiality. If a mediation  
4 communication is not privileged under (a)(i) of this subsection or that  
5 portion of (a)(ii) of this subsection pertaining to judicial review,  
6 only the portion of the communication necessary for the application of  
7 the exception may be admitted, and such admission of evidence shall not  
8 render any other mediation communication discoverable or admissible  
9 except as may be provided in chapter 7.07 RCW.

10 (4) The mediator shall assess the needs and interests of the child  
11 or children involved in the controversy and may interview the child or  
12 children if the mediator deems such interview appropriate or necessary.

13 (5) Any agreement reached by the parties as a result of mediation  
14 shall be reported to the court and to counsel for the parties by the  
15 mediator on the day set for mediation or any time thereafter designated  
16 by the court.

17 **Sec. 1047.** RCW 26.09.015 and 2007 c 496 s 602 and 2007 c 496 s 501  
18 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

19 (1) In any proceeding under this chapter, the matter may be set for  
20 mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent with the setting  
21 of the matter for hearing. The purpose of the mediation proceeding  
22 shall be to reduce acrimony which may exist between the parties and to  
23 develop an agreement assuring the child's close and continuing contact  
24 with both parents after the marriage or the domestic partnership is  
25 dissolved. The mediator shall use his or her best efforts to effect a  
26 settlement of the dispute.

27 (2)(a) Each superior court may make available a mediator. The  
28 court shall use the most cost-effective mediation services that are  
29 readily available unless there is good cause to access alternative  
30 providers. The mediator may be a member of the professional staff of  
31 a family court or mental health services agency, or may be any other  
32 person or agency designated by the court. In order to provide  
33 mediation services, the court is not required to institute a family  
34 court.

35 (b) In any proceeding involving issues relating to residential time  
36 or other matters governed by a parenting plan, the matter may be set  
37 for mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent with the

1 setting of the matter for hearing. Counties may, and to the extent  
2 state funding is provided therefor counties shall, provide both  
3 predecree and postdecree mediation at reduced or waived fee to the  
4 parties within one year of the filing of the dissolution petition.

5 (3)(a) Mediation proceedings under this chapter shall be governed  
6 in all respects by chapter 7.07 RCW, except as follows:

7 (i) Mediation communications in postdecree mediations mandated by  
8 a parenting plan are admissible in subsequent proceedings for the  
9 limited purpose of proving:

10 (A) Abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, or unlawful  
11 harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1), of a child;

12 (B) Abuse or unlawful harassment as defined in RCW 9A.46.020(1), of  
13 a family or household member as defined in RCW 26.50.010(2); or

14 (C) That a parent used or frustrated the dispute resolution process  
15 without good reason for purposes of RCW 26.09.184(4)(d).

16 (ii) If a postdecree mediation-arbitration proceeding is required  
17 pursuant to a parenting plan and the same person acts as both mediator  
18 and arbitrator, mediation communications in the mediation phase of such  
19 a proceeding may be admitted during the arbitration phase, and shall be  
20 admissible in the judicial review of such a proceeding under RCW  
21 26.09.184(4)(e) to the extent necessary for such review to be  
22 effective.

23 (b) None of the exceptions under (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection  
24 shall subject a mediator to compulsory process to testify except by  
25 court order for good cause shown, taking into consideration the need  
26 for the mediator's testimony and the interest in the mediator  
27 maintaining an appearance of impartiality. If a mediation  
28 communication is not privileged under (a)(i) of this subsection or that  
29 portion of (a)(ii) of this subsection pertaining to judicial review,  
30 only the portion of the communication necessary for the application of  
31 the exception may be admitted, and such admission of evidence shall not  
32 render any other mediation communication discoverable or admissible  
33 except as may be provided in chapter 7.07 RCW.

34 (4) The mediator shall assess the needs and interests of the child  
35 or children involved in the controversy and may interview the child or  
36 children if the mediator deems such interview appropriate or necessary.

37 (5) Any agreement reached by the parties as a result of mediation

1 shall be reported to the court and to counsel for the parties by the  
2 mediator on the day set for mediation or any time thereafter designated  
3 by the court.

4 **Sec. 1048.** RCW 26.09.194 and 1987 c 460 s 13 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A parent seeking a temporary order relating to parenting shall  
7 file and serve a proposed temporary parenting plan by motion. The  
8 other parent, if contesting the proposed temporary parenting plan,  
9 shall file and serve a responsive proposed parenting plan. Either  
10 parent may move to have a proposed temporary parenting plan entered as  
11 part of a temporary order. The parents may enter an agreed temporary  
12 parenting plan at any time as part of a temporary order. The proposed  
13 temporary parenting plan may be supported by relevant evidence and  
14 shall be accompanied by an affidavit or declaration which shall state  
15 at a minimum the following:

16 (a) The name, address, and length of residence with the person or  
17 persons with whom the child has lived for the preceding twelve months;

18 (b) The performance by each parent during the last twelve months of  
19 the parenting functions relating to the daily needs of the child;

20 (c) The parents' work and child-care schedules for the preceding  
21 twelve months;

22 (d) The parents' current work and child-care schedules; and

23 (e) Any of the circumstances set forth in RCW 26.09.191 that are  
24 likely to pose a serious risk to the child and that warrant limitation  
25 on the award to a parent of temporary residence or time with the child  
26 pending entry of a permanent parenting plan.

27 (2) At the hearing, the court shall enter a temporary parenting  
28 order incorporating a temporary parenting plan which includes:

29 (a) A schedule for the child's time with each parent when  
30 appropriate;

31 (b) Designation of a temporary residence for the child;

32 (c) Allocation of decision-making authority, if any. Absent  
33 allocation of decision-making authority consistent with RCW  
34 26.09.187(2), neither party shall make any decision for the child other  
35 than those relating to day-to-day or emergency care of the child, which  
36 shall be made by the party who is present with the child;

37 (d) Provisions for temporary support for the child; and

1 (e) Restraining orders, if applicable, under RCW 26.09.060.

2 (3) A parent may make a motion for an order to show cause and the  
3 court may enter a temporary order, including a temporary parenting  
4 plan, upon a showing of necessity.

5 (4) A parent may move for amendment of a temporary parenting plan,  
6 and the court may order amendment to the temporary parenting plan, if  
7 the amendment conforms to the limitations of RCW 26.09.191 and is in  
8 the best interest of the child.

9 (5) If a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or dissolution of  
10 domestic partnership, legal separation, or declaration of invalidity is  
11 dismissed, any temporary order or temporary parenting plan is vacated.

12 **Sec. 1049.** RCW 26.12.172 and 1994 c 267 s 5 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 Any court rules adopted for the implementation of parenting  
15 seminars shall include the following provisions:

16 (1) In no case shall opposing parties be required to attend  
17 seminars together;

18 (2) Upon a showing of domestic violence or abuse which would not  
19 require mutual decision making pursuant to RCW 26.09.191, or that a  
20 parent's attendance at the seminar is not in the children's best  
21 interests, the court shall either:

22 (a) Waive the requirement of completion of the seminar; or

23 (b) Provide an alternative, voluntary parenting seminar for  
24 battered spouses or battered domestic partners; and

25 (3) The court may waive the seminar for good cause.

26 **Sec. 1050.** RCW 26.12.260 and 2007 c 496 s 201 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) After July 1, 2009, but no later than November 1, 2009, a  
29 county may, and to the extent state funding is provided to meet the  
30 minimum requirements of the program a county shall, create a program to  
31 provide services to all parties involved in proceedings under chapter  
32 26.09 RCW. Minimum components of this program shall include: (a) An  
33 individual to serve as an initial point of contact for parties filing  
34 petitions for dissolutions or legal separations under chapter 26.09  
35 RCW; (b) informing parties about courthouse facilitation programs and  
36 orientations; (c) informing parties of alternatives to filing a

1 dissolution petition, such as marriage or domestic partnership  
2 counseling; (d) informing parties of alternatives to litigation  
3 including counseling, legal separation, and mediation services if  
4 appropriate; (e) informing parties of supportive family services  
5 available in the community; (f) screening for referral for services in  
6 the areas of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010, child  
7 abuse, substance abuse, and mental health; and (g) assistance to the  
8 court in superior court cases filed under chapter 26.09 RCW.

9 (2) This program shall not provide legal advice. No attorney-  
10 client relationship or privilege is created, by implication or by  
11 inference, between persons providing basic information under this  
12 section and the participants in the program.

13 (3) The legislative authority of any county may impose user fees or  
14 may impose a surcharge of up to twenty dollars on only those superior  
15 court cases filed under this title, or both, to pay for the expenses of  
16 this program. Fees collected under this section shall be collected and  
17 deposited in the same manner as other county funds are collected and  
18 deposited, and shall be maintained in a separate account to be used as  
19 provided in this section. The program shall provide services to  
20 indigent persons at no expense.

21 (4) Persons who implement the program shall be appointed in the  
22 same manner as investigators, stenographers, and clerks as described in  
23 RCW 26.12.050.

24 (5) If the county has a program under this section, any petition  
25 under RCW 26.09.020 must allege that the moving party met and conferred  
26 with the program prior to the filing of the petition.

27 (6) If the county has a program under this section, parties shall  
28 meet and confer with the program prior to participation in mediation  
29 under RCW 26.09.016.

## 30 PART XI - RECIPROCITY

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1101.** A new section is added to chapter 26.60  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 A domestic partnership or civil union, in which the persons meet  
34 the requirements of this chapter and that is created by another state,  
35 shall be recognized in Washington as a state registered domestic

1 partnership entitling the parties to the privileges, immunities,  
2 rights, benefits, and responsibilities established under this act.

3 **PART XII - DEFINITIONS**

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1201.** A new section is added to chapter 26.60  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 Whenever the term "domestic partnership" is used in the Revised  
7 Code of Washington it shall be defined to mean "state registered  
8 domestic partnership" and whenever the term "domestic partner" is used  
9 in the Revised Code of Washington it shall be defined to mean "state  
10 registered domestic partner."

11 **PART XIII - MISCELLANEOUS**

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1301.** Part headings used in this act are not  
13 any part of the law.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1302.** If any provision of this act or its  
15 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
16 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
17 persons or circumstances is not affected.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1303.** By January 1, 2009, affected agencies  
19 shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1304.** Section 1046 of this act expires January  
21 1, 2009.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1305.** Section 1047 of this act takes effect  
23 January 1, 2009.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1306.** Section 1050 of this act takes effect  
25 July 1, 2009.

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