

**RCW 26.12.220 Funding family court or family court services—
Increase in marriage license fee authorized—Family court services
program—Fees.** (1) The legislative authority of any county may
authorize family court services as provided in RCW 26.12.230. The
legislative authority may impose a fee in excess of that prescribed in
RCW 36.18.010 for the issuance of a marriage license. The fee shall
not exceed eight dollars.

(2) In addition to any other funds used therefor, the governing
body of any county shall use the proceeds from the fee increase
authorized by this section to pay the expenses of the family court and
the family court services under chapter 26.12 RCW. If there is no
family court in the county, the legislative authority may provide such
services through other county agencies or may contract with a public
or private agency or person to provide such services. Family court
services also may be provided jointly with other counties as provided
in RCW 26.12.230.

(3) The family court services program may hire professional
employees to provide the investigation, evaluation and reporting, and
mediation services, or the county may contract for these services, or
both. To facilitate and promote the purposes of this chapter, the
court may order or recommend the aid of physicians, psychiatrists, or
other specialists.

(4) The family court services program may provide or contract
for: (a) Mediation; (b) investigation, evaluation, and reporting to
the court; and (c) reconciliation; and may provide a referral
mechanism for drug and alcohol testing, monitoring, and treatment; and
any other treatment, parenting, or anger management programs the
family court professional considers necessary or appropriate.

(5) Services other than family court investigation, evaluation,
reconciliation, and mediation services shall be at the expense of the
parties involved absent a court order to the contrary. The parties
shall bear all or a portion of the cost of parenting seminars and
family court investigation, evaluation, reconciliation, and mediation
services according to the parties' ability to pay.

(6) The county legislative authority may establish rules of
eligibility for the family court services funded under this section.
The rules shall not conflict with rules of the court adopted under
chapter 26.12 RCW or any other statute.

(7) The legislative authority may establish fees for family court
investigation, evaluation, reconciliation, and mediation services
under this chapter according to the parties' ability to pay for the
services. Fees collected under this section shall be collected and
deposited in the same manner as other county funds are collected and
deposited, and shall be maintained in a separate account to be used as
provided in this section. [1994 c 267 § 4; 1991 c 367 § 15; 1980 c
124 § 1.]

Effective date—1994 c 267: See note following RCW 26.09.191.

Severability—Effective date—Captions not law—1991 c 367: See
notes following RCW 26.09.015.