

**WHATCOM COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT**
Whatcom County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 401
Bellingham, WA 98225-4081



MATTHEW S. ELICH
Judge

DAVID M. GRANT
Judge

ANTHONY PARISE
Commissioner

BRUCE VAN GLUBT
Administrator

TO: Attorneys in Civil Practice in Whatcom County District Court

FROM: Bruce Van Glubt

DATE: September 29, 2011

SUBJ: Ex Parte Fees

Along with private business and local and state government, Whatcom County has experienced reduced funding and revenue since 2008. As a result, the District Court has suffered dramatic reductions in its budget and has lost staff. The court has reluctantly determined it is necessary to impose an ex parte fee of \$15.00 starting on January 2, 2012. This fee will be imposed under the provisions of RCW 3.62.060(9). This statute provides that:

RCW 3.62.060

Filing fees in civil cases — Fees allowed as court costs.

(9) At the option of the district court, for clerk's services such as processing ex parte orders, performing historical searches, compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional record searches, a fee not to exceed twenty dollars per hour or portion of an hour.

To be specific, the following documents will be assessed

- Default Judgments/Orders of Default
- Garnishments: Judgments on Answers, Orders to Pay, Judgments on Answers of Garnishee, Orders of Court Directing Payment of Funds, Default Judgments Against Garnishee, Judgments and Orders to Disburse on Answer of Garnishee, Orders Discharging Garnishee, etc.
- Orders for Subpoena directed to the Employment Security Office
- Any other ex parte process that does not have a filing fee in order to process

The ex parte fee will not be charged to orders relating to civil anti harassment, domestic violence cases and dismissal orders.

Only one fee will be charged when processing a single motion involving or containing multiple orders received at the same time, for the same cause number, requiring one review.

The court is aware of the economic difficulty we are all facing. This decision was only made after an analysis of the cost of processing ex parte orders was completed.