



April 21, 2026

Rosanna Wadkins, Superior Court Administrator
205 W. Kincaid Street, Room 202
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Re: Support for Adoption of New Local Rule 34 and Revisions to Local Rule 30

Dear Superior Court Administrator,

On behalf of Anacortes Family Center (“AFC”), we submit this letter in support of the proposed adoption of Local Rule 34 and revisions to Local Rule 30 concerning civil fee waivers in Skagit County Superior Court.

AFC works with women, children, and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Many of the individuals we serve are in the process of rebuilding stability, securing employment, coordinating childcare, accessing services, and navigating complex systems simultaneously. During this time, even relatively minor procedural barriers can have outsized consequences.

Access to the court system is often a necessary part of that process. Families may need to resolve issues related to custody, protection, debt, or housing. However, the current fee waiver process in Skagit County frequently operates as a barrier rather than a gateway.

In practice, we see that:

- Requiring multiple, time-specific courthouse appearances is often unworkable for families managing shelter schedules, school obligations, or employment;
- The lack of clear, publicly available instructions creates confusion and delays, particularly for individuals attempting to proceed without legal representation;
- The separation between fee waiver approval and underlying filings can slow down access to urgently needed legal remedies.

These structural challenges do not reflect the realities faced by low-income families working toward stability. Instead, they introduce friction at a point where clarity and efficiency are most needed.

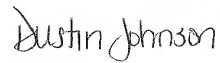
The proposed rule changes would meaningfully improve this system. In particular, allowing fee waivers and underlying pleadings to be filed together, permitting electronic submission, and eliminating unnecessary in-person appearances would reduce administrative burden on both

litigants and the Court. These changes would also better align local practice with statewide standards and modern expectations for accessibility.

From our perspective as a service provider, these updates would allow families to engage with the legal system in a way that is more consistent with their daily realities. It would also support better coordination between legal services providers and community-based organizations working to stabilize households.

We encourage the Court to adopt these proposed changes. Improving the accessibility and predictability of the fee waiver process is a practical step that will have a direct impact on families working to regain stability in Skagit County.

Sincerely,



Dustin Johnson
Executive Director



Colleen Craig
President, Board of Directors