



Legal Counsel for  
Youth and Children

May 12, 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 Legal Counsel for Youth and Children ("LCYC"), we write in support of the proposed adoption of Local Rule 34 and revisions to Local Rule 30 regarding civil fee waivers in Skagit County Superior Court.

LCYC works to protect the interests and safety of youth by advancing their legal rights through direct representation, community partnerships, and systemic advocacy. Our work spans child welfare, juvenile court, youth homelessness, and immigrant youth, and we regularly support young people navigating complex legal systems that directly impact their safety, stability, and future in various counties across Washington State, including Skagit.

From our experience, early and meaningful access to the courts is critical. Delays or procedural barriers can have lasting consequences for young people, particularly those experiencing housing instability, family disruption, or involvement in multiple legal systems. Systems that are difficult to navigate or require repeated in-person appearances can effectively exclude youth and young adults from accessing the legal remedies they need.

The current fee waiver process in Skagit County creates challenges that disproportionately affect youth and young adults, including:

- Barriers to timely filing of petitions that impact housing, safety, or family relationships;
- Confusion for unrepresented youth attempting to navigate court processes independently;
- Procedural delays that can disrupt already fragile living situations or support systems; and,
- Requirements that do not reflect the realities of youth who may lack transportation, stable schedules, or adult support.

Young people are uniquely impacted by these barriers. Many are navigating systems without consistent adult guidance, and even small procedural obstacles can prevent them from asserting their legal rights. Due to increased immigration enforcement in Skagit county and courthouses, immigrant youth are forced to put their right to access the court on hold – for fear of potential detainment and deportation. This turns many already vulnerable community members away from seeking the justice they deserve. As LCYC's work emphasizes, access to justice must be responsive to the developmental, practical, and systemic realities facing youth.

**Legal Counsel for Youth and Children**

P.O. Box 28629  
Seattle, WA 98118

www.lcycwa.org · info@lcycwa.org · **Phone:** 206-494-0323 · **Fax:** 206-649-7538

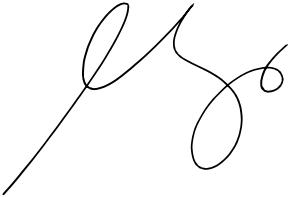
The proposed rule changes represent a meaningful step toward a more accessible and equitable system. Allowing electronic filing, permitting simultaneous filing of fee waivers and underlying pleadings, and eliminating unnecessary in-person appearances will reduce delays and improve access for young people and those who support them.

Importantly, these changes also align with a broader understanding that access to justice requires systems that are navigable, predictable, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted. Simplifying the fee waiver process will help ensure that young people can engage with the legal system in a timely and meaningful way.

We respectfully encourage the Court to adopt these proposed changes. Doing so will improve access to justice for youth and young adults across Skagit County and support a system that better reflects their needs and realities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhea Yo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rhea Yo  
Executive Director, Attorney at Law