

Welcome to the Bench

Child Dependency Courts

Serving as a dependency court judicial officer is an immense responsibility. These judicial officers oversee cases involving children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned, ensuring that their safety and best interests are prioritized.

Decisions in dependency court shape the futures of vulnerable children. These cases require careful consideration of legal requirements, family dynamics, and community resources. Dependency practice requires an understanding of the law, empathy, and a commitment to justice.



Laws governing dependency actions can be found in Chapters [13.34](#) and [13.38](#) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

A-Z
GLOSSARY

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the [Acronym Glossary](#) for [dependency cases](#) created by the [Department of Children, Youth, & Families](#)

JUDICIAL ROTATION SUPPORT

Family & Youth Justice Programs

[Family & Youth Programs \(FYJP\)](#) is the division of the [Administrative Office of the Courts](#) that provides training, technical assistance, and support to judicial officers that hear child dependency cases in Washington, including the below guide for judicial officers entering a dependency rotation.

[Dependency Rotation Judicial Support Guide](#)



National Resources

[National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#)

[National Center for State Courts](#)

[Capacity Building Center for Courts](#)

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

[Casey Family Programs](#)



Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP) provides judicial officer training, technical assistance and support. Let us know how we can help!