



## Snohomish County Council

**Committee:** LJHS  
**ECAF:** 21-0653  
**Proposal:** Mot. 21-298

**Analyst:** Heidi Beazizo  
**Date:** 9/7/2021

### **Consideration**

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Motion 21-298, which would approve and authorize an Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

### **Background**

In child dependency and termination cases, State law requires that the child be appointed a guardian ad litem or volunteer court appointed special advocate to advocate for the child's best interest during the case.<sup>1</sup> Currently 25 counties in the state of Washington, including Snohomish County, have court-based Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs.

The Washington State Legislature approved a budget appropriation to Snohomish County for the purposes of funding two (2) court appointed advocates which is distributed by the AOC; funding is included for salary and benefits, allowable supplies, equipment, training and travel expenses.

### **Current Proposal**

*Scope:* Motion 21-298 authorizes:

- 1) The agreement with the AOC, including receipt of the grant funds and
- 2) The Snohomish County Executive or the CASA Program Division Manager to take all actions consistent with the agreement (bi-annual statistical reports, etc).

*Duration:* July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 (termination allowed for convenience with five (5) days written notice.)

*Fiscal Implications:* \$211,286 (Exhibit A details the cost guidelines)

**2021 Budget:** YES

**Future Budget Impacts:** Agreement is renewed on an annual basis as appropriated by the state.

**Handling:** NORMAL

**Approved-as-to-form:** N/A (template State agreement)

**Risk Management:** APPROVE.

**Executive Recommendation:** APPROVE.

**Analysis:** These grant funds were not included in the 2021 Grant Work Plan and receipt does require council consideration.

**Attachments:** NONE

**Amendments:** NONE

**Request:** Move to GLS on September 15, 2021 for Council to consider taking action.

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<sup>1</sup> [RCW 13.34.100: Appointment of guardian ad litem—Background information—Rights—Notification and inquiry—Review and removal.](#)