

**KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE**

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# CLERK'S ALERT

**House Bill 5598 - New Domestic Cause of Action & New Case Schedule:  
Granting Relatives the Right to Seek Visits with a Child.**

SHB 5598 amends RCW 26.10.160 and adds a new chapter to Title 26. The new law allows for grandparents and other relatives by blood or marriage (including step-family members) the ability to seek an order regarding visits with a child who is not their biological child. This law goes into effect June 7, 2018.

The following is King County related information about this new cause of action:

- A new set of statewide pattern forms will be made available from the Washington State Office of the Administrator for the Courts, including: Petition for Visits, Response to Petition, Motion for Advanced Lawyer Fees & Costs, Order After Review of Petition and Final Order and Findings on Petition
- Cases may be initiated upon the filing of a Petition for Visits. This is a new cause of action.
- The domestic filing fee of \$260 applies.
- Cases will receive a case schedule and will be assigned to the Chief UFC Judge, Judge Rietschel.
- The Chief UFC Judge will conduct an in camera review hearing to determine whether the case will go forward. If the case moves forward, the Chief UFC Judge will assign it to a UFC Department judge for trial. Both the in camera review hearing and trial date are set via the case schedule issued at the time of filing.