



**King County**

# DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Title  
**EXPERT SERVICES POLICY**

Department/Issuing Agency  
**Department of Public Defense**

Effective Date  
**10/22/2024**

Approved

**Matthew Sanders, Interim Director**

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## I. PURPOSE

To establish clear and uniform policies and procedures for applying for and processing requests for expert services at public expense.

## II. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to attorneys requesting expert services at public expense for their indigent clients and to defendants who have been granted the right to represent themselves (proceed *Pro Se*). All references to “Attorneys” shall include *Pro Se* defendants, as under the law they are held to the same standards as attorneys.

The King County Department of Public Defense (DPD) may approve requests for payment for experts and investigators at public expense for indigent persons in adult and juvenile criminal cases and for child representation in family defense cases in King County Superior and District Court. Requests in Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) cases are approved by the ITA Commissioner. Requests in Special Commitment Unit and adult Family Defense cases are approved by the Washington State Office of Public Defense. Expert service requests for Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) shall be submitted pursuant to SMC expert policies. DPD does not process or pay expert service requests for SMC.

## III. REFERENCES

Revised Code of Washington Chapter 10.101 ([RCW 10.101](#))

King County Code Chapter 2.60 ([KCC 2.60](#))

Washington State Court Criminal Rule 3.1(f) ([CrR 3.1\(f\)](#))

Washington State Criminal Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 3.1(f) ([CrRLJ 3.1\(f\)](#))

King County Superior Court Local Criminal Rules 3.1(f) ([LCrR 3.1\(f\)](#))

King County Superior Court Local Juvenile Court Rules 9.3(c) ([LuCR 9.3\(c\)](#))

King County Superior Court Criminal Department [Manual](#), Section 10

King County Superior Court Juvenile Legal Proceedings [Manual](#)

Washington State Court Rules for Professional Conduct 1.8(m)(1)(ii) ([RPC 1.8\(m\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#))

Washington State Bar Association (“WSBA”) Standards for Indigent Defense Services, Standard Four ([revised March 8, 2024](#)). Pending adoption by the Washington State Supreme Court pursuant to [CrR 3.1](#), [CrRLJ 3.1](#), and [JuCR 9.2](#).

## IV. DEFINITIONS

**Order/ORES:** Order Authorizing Expert Services at Public Expense

**Expert Authorization:** Expert Service Authorization and Request for Payment Form (aka expert billing affidavit)

**Expert Services Administrative Attorney (ESAA):** Expert Services Administrative Attorney is a qualified attorney contracted by DPD to review all expert service requests and determine whether investigative, expert, or other services are necessary to an adequate defense, pursuant to authority delegated to DPD under [LCrR 3.1\(f\)](#)

## V. EXPERT SERVICE REQUESTS

### A. General Provisions

- 1. Expert Services Must be Approved Before the Expert Begins Work:** Requests must be submitted to DPD prior to the expenditure of funds. DPD is not responsible for payment for services rendered before such approval except as otherwise provided. Assigned Counsel who engage expert services which commence before approval may be subject to termination from the Assigned Counsel Panel. DPD Division attorneys who engage expert services which commence before approval will be subject to appropriate corrective action by DPD. Information which must be included in Expert Services requests made after commencement of work can be found in Section V. E.
- 2. Expert Services Request Must Contain Sufficient Information Regarding the Reasonable Necessity of the Expert:** The declaration submitted in support of the request must establish that the requested services are reasonably necessary for the representation of the client. Conclusory statements that the work is necessary are insufficient. For instance, stating that a client “has mental health issues” is insufficient by itself to justify the necessity of a psychologist. You must explain the client’s diagnosis or, if there is no current diagnosis, explain the symptoms and provide the information that leads you to the conclusion that the appointment of a psychologist is reasonably necessary.
- 3. Expert Services Administrative Attorneys (ESAAs) act independently of DPD:** All ESAA decisions on the approval, denial, or modification of Expert Services requests are not reviewable by DPD. The ESAAs rule on whether expert services are necessary to an adequate defense and whether the request is within DPD fee guidelines. They also consider whether the expert is qualified to perform the work requested.
- 4. Expert Fee Guidelines Must be Consulted Prior to Requesting Expert Services:** The authorization of expert services at public expense are subject to the DPD Expert Fee Guidelines (Appendix A). These guidelines are based upon normal and customary market-based rates and are subject to change over time. These guidelines may be exceeded but only with detailed justification set forth in the declaration and approved at the discretion of the ESAA. Information regarding Expert Services requests which exceed the fee guidelines can be found in section V. F. Any experts in areas of

expertise not listed in the guidelines will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the ESAAs.

- 5. A Defendant is Not Entitled to the “Best” Expert Available:** There is a presumption that there exists a qualified local expert that can perform the necessary work within DPD’s Expert Fee Guidelines. The exceptional quality, experience or reputation of an expert is not, in and of itself, a basis for exceeding the DPD Expert Fee Guidelines or appointing an out-of-state expert requiring travel to perform the work.

## B. Submission of Materials

- 1. Electronic Submission of Materials is Required:** Except for *Pro Se* defendants in custody, all submissions must be in electronic form. Submissions with an Order to Seal and/or Protective Order should be submitted pursuant to the instructions for the applicable jurisdiction. Submissions without an Order to Seal and/or Protective Order should be sent in PDF format by email to [DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov).
- 2. DPD Standard Forms Must be Used:** Attorneys must use the forms posted on DPD’s Expert Services website for the following pleadings (available for King County Superior Court and King County District Court [here](#)):
  - a. Order Authorizing Expert Services at Public Expense (ORES)
  - b. Motion and Certification for Expert Services at Public Expense
  - c. Motion and Order to Seal Documents
  - d. Motion and Protective Order for Expert Witness and Services Funding Request
  - e. Order Appointing Independent Expert or Professional Person and Directing Payment to be Reimbursed by DSHS
- 3. RUSH Requests:** If an attorney believes a request should be expedited, the attorney should include the language “RUSH REQUEST” in the submission email subject line. The attorney should also indicate in the declaration the reason for the expedited request. The RUSH designation should be used only when necessary. It moves the request to the top of the line, which can cause potential delays for requests that were submitted prior to the RUSH submission.
- 4. Sealed Requests - Superior Court:** In Superior Court, Expert Services requests which contain an Order to Seal and/or Protective Order must be submitted via email to the Seattle Superior Court Chief Criminal Judge at [seacriminalmotions@kingcounty.gov](mailto:seacriminalmotions@kingcounty.gov) or to the Chief Juvenile Court Judge.

- a. If the Judge approves the Order to Seal and/or Protective Order, the court will email the expert service request, including the signed Order to Seal and/or Protective Order and the unsigned Order on Expert Services, to DPD and the attorney for review and processing.
- b. If the Judge denies the Order to Seal and/or Protective Order, the court will email the denial to the attorney. The attorney may choose to submit the Expert Services request to DPD without sealing or to move the court for reconsideration.

**5. Sealed Requests - District Court:** In District Court, Expert Services requests which contain an Order to Seal and/or Protective Order must be submitted via email directly to [DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov). Once the ESAA has ruled on the funding request, all pleadings, including the unsigned Order to Seal and/or Protective Order and the signed Order on Expert Services, will be forwarded by DPD staff to the presiding District Court Judge or designee for a ruling on the sealing/protective order.

- a. If the Judge approves the Order to Seal and/or Protective Order, the court will file the Expert Services request under seal with the clerk's office.
- b. If the court denies the Order to Seal and/or Protective Order, the materials will be returned to the attorney by the court. The decision to file an unsealed Order on Expert Services rests with the attorney. Orders Authorizing Expert Services must be filed with the Court in order to be valid. If counsel declines to file an unsealed Order Authorizing Expert Services, the ORES is void and will not be honored by DPD.

### C. Motion and Certification for Expert Services at Public Expense

**1. Required Contents:** The Motion and Certification for Expert Services at Public Expense must include the following:

- a. A statement of the facts of the case
- b. A copy of the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause.
- c. The relevant facts/legal issue supporting the need for the expert, which should include if applicable:
  - i. The client's history
  - ii. Observations you have made of the client,
  - iii. Specific facts from police reports,
  - iv. Reports by family members,
  - v. Other salient facts that support your conclusion.
- d. Why the expert is reasonably necessary to representation (conclusory statements alone are insufficient to establish reasonable necessity),

- e. The anticipated scope or focus of the expert's work and the issue(s) the attorney needs the expert to address,
  - f. The name and business name (DBA) of the expert and the expert's credentials.
- 2. Hourly Rates:** If the services are provided at an hourly rate, the attorney must include:
- a. Whether the rate is within DPD's Expert Fee Guidelines. If the rate exceeds the guidelines, the declaration should indicate why the higher rate is necessary, or why other experts who could provide the services within the guidelines are not appropriate (see requirements below in Subsection F),
  - b. The estimated number of hours the expert will need to complete the work, including a breakdown of each task (e.g. interview client, write report) and how many hours each task will take.
- 3. Flat Rates:** Services provided at flat rates will generally only be approved in rare circumstances such as sexual behavioral risk evaluations and polygraphs. If a request is approved for a flat rate, no supplemental funding requests will be approved for that work.
- 4. Requests for Testimony and Trial Preparation:** A request for testimony and/or trial preparation for an expert previously approved must indicate the number of anticipated hours and the hourly rate for testimony and/or trial preparation. Testimonial rates should always be discussed with the expert prior to obtaining their services. Testimonial rates cannot exceed 130% of the hourly rate approved by the ESAA for the original request. An interview by opposing counsel will be paid at the same rate as testimony.
- 5. Cancellation or Missed Appointment:** Fees set by experts for cancelled or missed appointments will generally not be approved in advance. If an expert seeks to bill or charge for cancellation fees or time lost because of a client missing an appointment, such a request must be made in a supplemental Expert Services request justifying the additional expenditure. Cancellation fees for rescheduled or cancelled testimony will not be approved or paid.
- 6. Costs of Equipment:** Payment for additional costs of equipment or materials the expert may use in the course of their work will not be approved or authorized.

#### D. Supplemental Requests

- 1. Required Contents:** Supplemental funding requests for expert work previously approved requires the following:

- a. A clear initial statement that this request supplements a previous request(s) for this expert with the date the prior request was filed,
- b. A brief summary of the case with a complete description of all expert work performed to date which was covered by the initial ORES, including, if relevant, the number of hours the expert worked on each task,
- c. A statement that the total pretrial hours requested for this expert do not exceed the DPD Expert Fee Guidelines or if so, a thorough explanation of the exceptional circumstances which justify exceeding the guidelines,
- d. An explanation of what work the expert still needs to complete and the hours it will take to complete that work,
- e. If the supplemental request is necessary as the result of the expert exceeding the original approval without prior authorization from the ESAA, the attorney must provide a thorough explanation of why this occurred to justify the additional funding. Attorneys should document any communications directing the expert not to exceed the approved funding to support this request,
- f. Supplemental requests for trial preparation and/or testimony do not require exceptional circumstances. The hourly rate for trial preparation and testimony cannot exceed 130% of the rate approved by the ESAA for the original request.

#### E. Requests for Work Already Performed by an Expert

**1. Exceptional Circumstances Justifying Work Already Performed:** Expert hours must be approved in advance. Only in those circumstances where the expert's work must be performed immediately to prevent irreparable harm to the representation of the case and the client's legal interests will funding be approved after the fact. This would include:

- a. An expert spending more time than anticipated testifying during trial or unforeseen trial delays that result in additional expert hours,
- b. Expert work necessary to prevent the loss or destruction of evidence,
- c. Preservation of video or recorded evidence,
- d. Photographs of injuries,
- e. Collection of physical evidence to be scientifically tested or examined later,
- f. Unexpected transcription or translation requests that arise during trial,
- g. Unexpected language interpretation necessary for representation,
- h. Other emergency circumstances that justify not seeking prior approval.



## 2. Examples of Work That Do Not Qualify for this Exception:

- a. Witness interviews that can be conducted at a later date,
- b. Mental health or substance abuse evaluations,
- c. Routine investigation in the course of a case,
- d. Experts exceeding the original authorization amounts after being notified by counsel not to do so.

## F. Exceeding Fee Guidelines

**1. Required Contents:** Expert service requests that exceed the DPD Fee Guidelines must include information demonstrating case-specific exceptional circumstances that justify the request. The attorney must demonstrate there is not a qualified expert available that can perform the work necessary for the case within the fee guidelines. A request that exceeds the fee guidelines must contain the following:

- a. The specific basis for exceeding the fee guidelines,
- b. The extraordinary needs, or demands of the case or client,
- c. Why services within the guidelines are not available in the community, and
- d. List of multiple local experts who were consulted and explain why they cannot accomplish the same goal within the fee guidelines.

**2. Prior Expert Authorization Above the Fee Guidelines:** The fact that an amount exceeding the fee guidelines has been previously authorized by an ESAA or Judge in another case is not a basis to exceed them again. Assertions in the declaration that the expert was approved for the higher rate on another case or on a previous request cannot be considered by the ESAA and should not be included.

## G. Out-of-State Experts

**1. Required Contents:** An attorney requesting an out-of-state expert that will require travel to Washington to perform any aspect of the work including interviews or testimony, must detail in the declaration which local experts were contacted and why those local providers are not able or available to perform the work. The attorney must also contact experts in neighboring states and explain why they are not able or available to perform the work. Neighboring states include Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. There is a presumption that there exists a qualified local expert that can perform the necessary work within DPD's Expert Fee Guidelines. Attorneys must make reasonable efforts to minimize travel expenses for any expert that would require travel to complete work.

## H. Approval Process

1. **DPD Submission to the ESAA:** DPD sends expert service requests to the ESAs, who generally review submissions within one (1) business day after they have received them. Additional information may be requested by the ESAs via telephone or email and a timely response is necessary for the processing of a submission to be completed. Failure of the submitting attorney to respond to a request for additional or clarifying information from an ESAA will result in the request not being processed. It is the attorney's obligation to answer specific questions, or the request will not be processed. These email communications are covered by the order to seal and protective order signed by Superior Court and are considered supplements to the declaration.
2. **ESAA Responses:** The ESAs may approve the request as proposed, approve the request with modifications, or deny the proposed request. DPD will notify the attorney once the expert service request has been processed and return the signed ORES via email.
  - a. **Approved ORES:** If the request is approved, DPD will email the attorney a copy of the signed ORES and the Expert Service Authorization and Request for Payment form, which attorneys must return to DPD with the expert's invoice for payment once the work is completed.
  - b. **Modified ORES:** If the request is approved with modifications, the ESAs will provide a written reason for the modifications either contained in, or attached to, the signed ORES. DPD will email the attorney a copy of the signed modified ORES and the Expert Service Authorization and Request for Payment form, which attorneys must return to DPD with the expert's invoice for payment once the work is completed.
    - i. An attorney can seek an appeal of the modified ORES to the Court.
    - ii. The ESAA can only amend or modify specific portions of the ORES once submitted including hourly rates, number of hours to be approved and the expert's DBA name if necessary or requested.
    - iii. The ESAA cannot amend or modify the ORES to include a different expert than originally requested if a sealing order or protective order has been signed by the Court or the request has already been filed with the Court. If the named expert has changed, the attorney must submit a new expert service request, including sealing and protective orders if applicable.
  - c. **Denied ORES:** If the request is denied, the ESAs will provide a written explanation of their ruling either contained in, or attached to, the signed ORES.
    - i. An attorney can seek an appeal of the denied ORES to the Court.

## I. Appealing a Denial or Modification

1. **Requirements of the Appeal:** If a request has been denied or modified, that decision can be appealed to the Chief Criminal Judge in Seattle, Chief MRJC Judge, or Chief Juvenile Court Judge pursuant to the King County Superior Court Criminal Department Manual, Section 10, and local criminal rules.
  - a. **DPD Staff Attorneys Should Consult Their Supervisor:** If an ORES submitted by a DPD staff attorney is denied or modified, the attorney should consult with their supervisor prior to filing an appeal.
  - b. **Must Include the ESAA's Written Ruling:** A signed ORES by an ESAA modifying or denying a request is required to file an appeal. The appeal submission to the Court must include the ORES containing the ESAA's written ruling denying or modifying the request. An email from the ESAA is not a valid written denial or modification for purposes of appeal. A request for clarification made by an ESAA is not sufficient grounds to appeal to the Court.
  - c. **Appeal Must Mirror the Original Request:** The appeal submission to the Court must include an unsigned copy of the original ORES for review by the Judge. The ORES provided to the Judge in the appeal must be identical to the ORES provided to the ESAA. The ORES must be for the same expert, the same amount of funding and for the same work contained in the original request that was denied or modified by the ESAA. All email communications with the ESAA regarding the ORES must be included with the appeal documents submitted to the court.
  - d. **Appeal Must be Provided to ESAA at the Time of Filing:** The attorney must provide a copy of the entire appeal packet to the ESAA who reviewed the expert service request at the time that it is submitted to the court.
  - e. **Court's Decision:** The attorney must provide a copy of the Court's ruling and any other documents submitted to the DPD Director's Office and to the ESAA. If Expert Services funding is approved or modified by the Court on appeal, the Director's Office will issue an Expert Services Authorization and Request for Payment Form once the signed ORES is received from the attorney.

## J. Payment of Experts

1. **Expert Authorization Form:** The Director's Office will send an Expert Service Authorization and Request for Payment form via email with each approved ORES.
2. **Expert Bill Payment:** Once services have been rendered, and the attorney receives an invoice from the expert, the attorney must return the completed Expert Authorization, signed by both the attorney and the expert, together with the expert's

invoice to [DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov). Requests for payment will not be accepted from the expert directly. Attorneys are responsible for the accuracy of the invoices submitted for payment. Inquiries concerning payment status or Expert Authorizations should be emailed to [DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov).

#### K. Alternative Process for DPD Dependency Expert Service Requests

- 1. Child Representation Cases Assigned By DPD:** Attorneys are encouraged to use the following process for requesting expert services for dependency child representation cases assigned by DPD. An attorney may also seek approval for expert funding directly from the Court.
- 2. Travel Requests:** For travel funding requests, see section VIII for information that should be contained in your request.
- 3. Required Contents:** The dependency attorney should email the following information to [DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov):
  - a. The expert's name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.
  - b. The expert's DPD-issued vendor number to expedite direct payment to the expert. Contact [DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertRequests@kingcounty.gov) if the expert does not have a current vendor number.
  - c. Do not include client name or case number or other client-identifying information in your request.
  - d. A brief case background as to why the expert is necessary and brief description of the services to be provided.
  - e. The estimated cost for services including the hourly rate, an estimate of total hours to complete the work, and a breakdown of hours by activity. If the services are provided at a flat rate, state the fee and the specific services to be provided. Include any other necessary expenses such as travel expenses.
  - f. A certification from the attorney indicating whether other expert services have been authorized for that client and, if so, the name of the expert and the amount authorized.
  - g. Sample forms for these requests may be obtained by emailing [DPD.AssignedCounsel@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD.AssignedCounsel@kingcounty.gov).
- 4. DPD Approval:** The attorney will be notified via email when the request has been processed. The Special Counsel for Expert Services and Legal Contracting will act as the ESAA in reviewing the request.

- a. If the request is approved, the attorney will be notified via an email stating the nature of services and the financial scope of the authorization. If the request is denied or modified, the attorney will be notified via email to explain the basis for the denial or modification.

**5. Expert Bill Payment:** Once services have been rendered, and the attorney receives an invoice from the expert, the attorney must return the completed Expert Authorization, signed by both the attorney and the expert, together with the expert's invoice to [DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPD-ExpertBilling@kingcounty.gov). Requests for payment will not be accepted from the expert directly. Attorneys are responsible for the accuracy of the invoices submitted for payment.

- a. Write the Request ID number on the invoice and redact any client-identifying information before sending the invoice to DPD.

## VI. COMMON EXPERT SERVICES REQUESTS

### A. Forensic Psychological Evaluations

**1. Required Content:** Psychological evaluations may be authorized in cases where a professional assessment is reasonably necessary to support a legal defense and/or assist in mitigation for negotiations or sentencing. For a mental health expert to be approved, there must be some combination of the following:

- a. A history of mental health diagnosis and/or treatment;
- b. A history of prescribed mental health medication;
- c. Reports from family or friends that client suffers from a mental health condition or has a history of abnormal behavior;
- d. The existence of school or health records indicative of cognitive or behavioral difficulties or mental health issues or needs;
- e. Case facts such as witness or law enforcement observations indicating suspected mental health issues;
- f. Placement in a mental health unit within the jail;
- g. Defense team observations of behavior indicative of a mental health disorder, particularly input from social worker, mitigation specialists, or supervisor;
- h. Proposed expert's preliminary assessment of possible mental health issues or needs;
- i. Credible self-reports from client of symptoms evidencing mental illness or prior treatment or hospitalizations (should be corroborated with the above factors if reasonably possible); and/or

- j. A careful recitation of other particular facts of the case giving rise to the belief that such an issue is present.

## B. NGRI/Competency

1. **Mandatory DSHS Order:** A request for NGRI or competency evaluation must include a proposed Order Appointing Independent Expert or Professional Person and Directing Payment to be Reimbursed by DSHS in addition to the ORES. Only one order needs to be submitted per NGRI or competency evaluation pursuant to WAC 388-875-0040. Supplemental requests and testimony funding requests do not require submission of an additional order unless the supplemental is for an NGRI or competency evaluation that was not part of the original request. Please note that for DSHS Orders to be sealed, they must be listed on the sealing/protective order as a protected document along with the standard Expert Services motion and order.

## C. Sexual Behavioral Risk Evaluations

1. **Required Contents:** Sexual behavioral risk evaluations may be authorized in cases where a professional assessment is reasonably necessary to assist in mitigation for negotiations or sentencing. For sexual behavioral risk evaluations to be approved, there must be some combination of the following:
  - a. That counsel is considering a Special Sex Offender Sentencing Alternative (SSOSA);
  - b. The prosecuting attorney has affirmatively required such an evaluation as a condition for negotiation.

## D. Polygraphs

1. **Required Contents:** Expert service requests for independent polygraphs must include information demonstrating case-specific exceptional circumstances that justify the request given their inadmissibility. A request for a polygraph should include those facts which show the need for such examination. For independent polygraphs to be approved there must be some combination of the following:
  - a. The prosecuting attorney has agreed to consider such an examination in negotiations for a reduction in charges (or has demonstrated a willingness to consider successful examinations for reductions in similar cases in the past);

- b. There is an assertion of actual innocence, self-defense or an affirmative defense and there exists substantial corroborating evidence in the case that supports innocence, self-defense, or an affirmative defense;
- c. There is an assertion of actual innocence and the evidence to be presented by the state consists solely of testimonial evidence of a criminal act by a complaining witness unsupported by any physical or other corroborating evidence;
- d. A plea offer has been extended that significantly reduces client's exposure and the attorney can assert a good faith basis to believe such an examination is necessary for meaningful and productive communications with the client to provide effective assistance of counsel;
- e. It is a request for an ultimate issue polygraph involving a juvenile sex offense and the attorney can assert a good faith basis to believe participation in the polygraph will lead to the client participating in a subsequent sexual behavioral risk evaluation.

**2. Sexual Behavioral Risk Polygraphs:** Requests for polygraphs in conjunction with psychosexual behavioral risk evaluations may be included with the original request if included in costs from your expert. These may also be submitted by separate request for the individual polygrapher. Either request should include a statement that the psychosexual behavioral risk expert is requiring or requesting such an examination to complete the evaluation or to provide an expert opinion.

## E. Mitigation Specialists

- 1. Required Content:** Attorneys must demonstrate case and client-specific facts justifying the need for mitigation work and whether the work product will be used for a motion for release, negotiation, or a sentencing presentation. The following factors should be addressed in the request:
  - a. Complexity of the social or mental health history of the particular client that warrants mitigation work;
  - b. If the focus of the work will be interviewing witnesses for the preparation of a psychosocial history as part of a larger mitigation packet; and
  - c. Demonstration in the declaration of why the proposed work cannot be completed by an investigator or attorney and requires specialized expertise in assessing and interpreting psychosocial histories that would be presented through persuasive mitigation reports to be used in negotiations or sentencing/disposition hearings.

## F. Transcripts

1. **Audio/Video Recordings:** A request for a transcript of either an audio or video-recorded hearing or an interview must include at a minimum:
  - a. Clear reasons that establish the necessity of the transcription;
  - b. Either the length of time it will take to prepare the transcript and the hourly rate, or an estimate of the number of pages and the rate per page;
  - c. The timeframe in which the transcript is needed;
  - d. The length of the interview and whether it would be more efficient for the attorney to listen to the tape rather than have it transcribed; and/or
  - e. The charge, the number of witnesses in the case, and the centrality of the witness who was interviewed.
  
2. **DPD Attorneys:** DPD staff attorneys must follow internal DPD procedures for requesting audio transcription work. Managing Attorneys authorize transcription requests within each division. DPD staff attorneys do not need to submit an Expert Services request if the Managing Attorney approves the request. The same standards apply to consideration of a request for transcription within the divisions as any expert service request. Transcript requests must be tracked in compliance with DPD's internal Transcription and Records Requests Policy.
  - a. Internal DPD procedures for audio transcription work do not apply to a request for a transcript from a Court Reporter. Please see Section H. below regarding a request for transcript from a Court Reporter or Stenographer.
  
3. **Assigned Counsel:** Assigned Counsel must request transcription costs by Expert Service request if the amount is over \$500.00. If the amount is \$500.00 or under, it can be listed as an expense on the attorney's monthly billing for that case so long as total monthly expenses to do not exceed \$500.00 per bill.

## G. Medical and Mental Health Records

1. **DPD Attorneys:** Expert Services requests must be submitted for hospitals and other institutions which do not accept the King County P-Card. In all other instances, DPD staff attorneys must follow internal DPD procedures for ordering copies of medical and mental health records. Records requests must be tracked in compliance with DPD's internal Transcription and Records Requests Policy.
  
2. **Assigned Counsel:** Assigned Counsel must submit an Expert Services request for medical and mental health records if the amount is over \$500.00. If the amount is \$500.00 or under, it can be listed as an expense on the attorney's monthly billing for that case so long as total monthly expenses to do not exceed \$500.00 per bill.



## H. Court Reporters, Stenographers and Depositions

1. **Required Contents:** An attorney who needs the services of a court reporter or stenographer to be present for a deposition or to create a written transcript from a hearing or trial already completed, must submit an Expert Services request.
  - a. A request for a court reporter for the purposes of a deposition or for the purposes of transcribing existing notes of a deposition or hearing must include:
    - i. Clear reasons that establish the necessity of the transcription or deposition;
    - ii. The hourly rate for the court reporter to appear at the deposition and the per-page costs of producing a written transcript.

## I. Language Interpretation and Translation

1. **Required Contents:** An attorney who needs the services of a language interpreter should contact the King County Office of Interpreter Services (OIS). For interpreter services that OIS declines to provide (such as defense expert evaluations), defense counsel may submit an Expert Services request for case related work that requires the use of an interpreter or translator.
  - a. Attorneys must use Washington State Court Certified interpreters whenever possible for such work and must state this in their request.
  - b. Audio translation should be billed per hour. Translation of written materials should be billed per word.
  - c. Half-day rates are applicable to in-person interpretation only.
  - d. DPD employees and Assigned Counsel are expected to utilize DPD's Voiance interpretation service for phone interpretation whenever possible.
2. **Assigned Counsel:** Assigned Counsel must request funding for interpreter and translation services by Expert Service request, if not provided by OIS and if the amount is over \$500.00. If the amount is \$500.00 or under, it can be listed as an expense on the attorney's monthly billing for that case so long as total monthly expenses do not exceed \$500.00 per bill.

## VII. SUBSTITUTION OF NEW COUNSEL OR NEW EXPERT

### A. Withdrawing Counsel

1. **Required Obligations:** In the event an expert services request has been granted on a pending case, withdrawing counsel must contact all experts previously approved that have not completed their work and advise them to stop work until or unless they hear

from new counsel. The expert shall be informed that if they do not hear from new counsel, they should submit a final bill to the withdrawing attorney for payment within 60 days of receiving notice from withdrawing counsel.

## B. Substituting Counsel

1. **Required Obligations:** Substituting counsel should seek release from the client to communicate with prior counsel to determine what experts were retained on the case, what work has been completed, and what expert work is still outstanding.
2. **Discretion of Substituting Counsel:** It is within the professional judgment of new counsel to authorize continued work for a previously approved expert, to order the expert to stop work and submit a final bill, or to submit a request for a new expert.
  - a. If new counsel authorizes the previously approved expert to continue work, the previous Order to Seal and Protective Order follow the case and remain in full effect along with the prior expert approval.
  - b. If new counsel makes a request for a new expert to do work previously authorized, there must be a justification for the change in experts. If prior authorized expert work has already been performed, there is a strong presumption that requests for duplicate work by a new expert will be denied.

## C. Substitution of New Expert

1. **Termination of Expert:** An attorney should make every attempt to thoroughly discuss what work they wish the expert to perform prior to the submission of the request to avoid confusion and unusable work product. In the event that an attorney wishes to terminate the work of an expert for any reason, they shall inform the expert to stop work immediately and submit a final bill to DPD, providing an account of what work was completed.
2. **Required Contents:** If the attorney wishes to engage a new expert for the same or substantially similar work, the attorney must submit a new expert service request explaining the following:
  - a. What work the previous expert completed,
  - b. If the work product produced is unusable and why,
  - c. The reasons for terminating the work of the prior expert, and
  - d. A thorough explanation justifying the potentially duplicative work.

*A new expert will not be approved based upon the attorney disagreeing with the opinion, findings, or potential testimony of the previously retained expert.*

## VIII. TRAVEL

### A. Travel Estimate and Agency

1. **Travel Estimate:** Prior to submitting an Expert Services request for case-related travel, attorney must contact King County's contracted travel agency to obtain an estimate for travel as a required element of the request. All hotel, per diem, and mileage requests are expected to be within the Federal GSA rates where applicable. DPD employees must follow internal Expert Services travel procedures to request an estimate.
2. **Travel Agency:** Please contact King County's contracted travel agency for all travel estimates to include in your Expert Services request:

**Tangerine Travel**

Tangerine Travel Help Desk: [onlinesupport@tangerinetravel.com](mailto:onlinesupport@tangerinetravel.com)

Immediate Assistance 24/7: 425-822-2333

### B. Travel Expenses

1. **Expert Travel:** All requests for funds for travel by an expert must be submitted as an Expert Services request. Attorneys are encouraged to discuss the willingness of an expert to accept a reduced rate for travel time prior to submitting the request. The request must separate expert travel time from expert travel expenses in the ORES.
2. **Travel Not Requiring Expert Services Requests:** An Expert Service request is not necessary for travel expenses for DPD employees or Assigned Counsel where the travel is not overnight travel, is not by air, and the estimated cost is less than \$500.00 or approved by a Managing Attorney. DPD attorneys and staff must follow internal DPD procedures for pay for this travel and should contact their Division Program Manager before booking any travel. Assigned Counsel may include these expenses in their billing affidavit pursuant to the Assigned Counsel Policy.
3. **Required Content:** Expert Services requests must be submitted for case-related travel expenses for the attorney, staff, or an expert. Family Defense travel funding requests may use the alternative process contained in section V. L. The request for travel must include the case-related reasons for the travel along with a proposed/pending travel itinerary including:

- a. Dates necessary for travel,
- b. Method of travel (air, car, etc.),
- c. If travel is by air, please include airline change fees in the request,
- d. Hotel needs within the Federal GSA rates,
- e. Car rental or rideshare estimate, if necessary, and
- f. An estimate of the total cost which must be obtained through King County's contracted travel agency. See section VIII. A.

**4. Reimbursable Costs:** Lodging, meals, and mileage costs are reimbursable at the federal per diem rate (available at [www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem)). These expenses must be itemized when submitted.

- a. Receipts must be submitted with request for reimbursement; however, receipts are not necessary for reimbursement for meals, which are covered by the federal per diem rate.
- b. DPD does not reimburse for tips, alcohol, interest, or late charges.
- c. For mileage, the request should list the cities of origin and destination, and the total miles as determined from a map application, the GSA rate, and the total.
- d. DPD employees submit mileage reimbursement through internal DPD procedures.

### C. Approved Travel Arrangements

**1. Travel Arrangements:** Upon approval of an Expert Services request for travel, the attorney must contact the DPD Director's Office to finalize and book travel arrangements. DPD employees must follow internal Expert Services travel procedures to request reservations. **Attorneys and/or Experts should not book or pay for approved Expert Services travel directly through Tangerine Travel or any other means.** Counsel shall email [DPDTravel@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DPDTravel@kingcounty.gov) with the details of travel and attach copies of the Motion/Declaration for Expert Services at Public Expense and the signed ORES. DPD Director's Office will then finalize and pay for the booking with Tangerine Travel.

- a. Travel details must include:
  - i. Dates and times for the travel,
  - ii. Preference for direct flight or if connecting flights are acceptable,
  - iii. Originating city,
  - iv. Dietary restrictions,
  - v. Transportation needs to/from airport,
  - vi. Hotel preferences,

- vii. Any reference information provided to the attorney by Tangerine Travel when requesting an estimate, if applicable

#### D. Material Witness Travel Expenses

1. **Required Court Order:** Material witness travel expenses can be requested by Expert Service request, if accompanied by a Court Order finding the witness material. A copy of this signed order must be attached to the Expert Services request.
  - a. Depending on the actual cost of the material witness to appear and the ability of the witness to travel, appear at court, and return home in the same day, the ESAA's will consider a request for funds to cover the cost of travel in excess of that provided by the court.

### IX. ASSIGNED COUNSEL, RETAINED COUNSEL & PRO SE DEFENDANTS

#### A. Privately Retained Attorneys with Indigent Clients

1. **Rights of Indigent Clients:** An attorney who has been retained to represent a defendant may seek funding for expert services for their client at public expense, pursuant to CrR 3.1 and *State v. Punsalan*, 156 Wn.2d 875 (2006).
2. **Client Must Be Screened by DPD:** Prior to the authorization of any requests for expert services, the defendant shall undergo DPD's financial screening process to establish indigency. Instructions on DPD's financial screening can be found on the King County Department of Public defense website.
3. **Obligations of Counsel:** The attorney must follow the procedures outlined in this policy. Counsel is responsible for submitting all Expert Services requests and related paperwork as required under the Expert Services Policy. Expert Services requests and billing submissions will not be accepted from the Expert directly.

#### B. Pro Se Defendants/Standby Counsel

1. **Rights of Pro Se Defendants:** A defendant, authorized by the Court to proceed *Pro Se* pursuant to *Faretta v. California*, 95 S. Ct. 2525 (1975), who is seeking expert services must follow the procedures outlined in this policy. The Pro Se defendant is responsible for locating and communicating with any experts whose services they wish to engage as well as submitting all Expert Services requests and related paperwork as required under the Expert Services Policy. The DPD Expert Services Administrator or standby

counsel, if one is appointed, will be responsible for providing the defendant with the necessary forms.

2. **Approval of Requests:** The Special Counsel for Expert Services and Legal Contracting acts as the Expert Services Administrative Attorney for expert service requests from *Pro Se* defendants.

### C. Investigators for Assigned Counsel, Retained Counsel, and *Pro Se* Defendants

1. **Required Contents:** Attorneys must include the charge and brief investigative plan when requesting investigator funding, such as:
  - a. The number of civilian and police witnesses to be interviewed,
  - b. Other investigative tasks to be performed,
  - c. The amount of time reasonably anticipated to be necessary to accomplish these tasks.
2. **Standard Hours:** The number of hours authorized will depend on the facts and circumstances of the case. DPD will authorize up to 75 hours per class A felony request and up to 50 hours for all other requests.
3. **Investigator Requirements:** For investigation conducted in the State of Washington, attorneys may seek authorization only for investigators licensed pursuant to RCW 18.165.030 and must provide DPD with a copy of the investigator's license.
4. **DPD Staff Investigators:** DPD will not appoint or approve expert services funding for any staff investigator employed by DPD to assist in any case in which the client is not represented by a DPD staff attorney, including *Pro Se* litigants or appointed counsel.

## X. DPD Expert Fee Guidelines – Effective 02/24/2025

*NOTE: Changes to the fee guidelines are not retroactive. Testimonial rates cannot exceed 130% of the hourly rate approved by the ESAA for the original request.*

	<b>Expert Service Type</b>	<b>Required Credentials</b>	<b>Financial Guidelines</b>	<b>Hourly Guidelines</b>
<b>Crime Scene / Evidence Analysis</b>	Accident Reconstruction	B.A. in Engineering and/or specialized training in accident reconstruction	\$350/hr. max.	Max. 30 hrs.
	Accounting	B.A. in Accounting or related field <u>AND</u> CPA	\$250/hr. max.	
	Arson	Specialized training in fire investigation <u>AND</u> certification from the National Association of Fire Investigators or Fire and Arson Training from the National Fire Academy	\$275/hr. max.	
	Audio/Video Forensic Analyst	Expertise in forensic digital analysis/enhancement	\$225/hr. max.	
	Computer/Cell Phone Forensic Analyst	Expertise in forensic computer/cell phone analysis	\$250/hr. max.	
	Crime Scene / Trace Evidence / Firearms / Ballistics	B.S./B.A. in Chemistry, Biology, Microbiology, Forensic Science, or other related fields	\$275/hr. max.	
	DNA	B.S. or Ph.D. in Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Zoology, or related fields	\$250/hr. max. (B.S.) \$300/hr. max (Ph.D.)	Max. 20 hrs.
	Documents	Specialized training in document examination	\$200/hr. max.	
	Eyewitness / Memory / Perception	Ph.D. in Psychology or other related fields <u>AND</u> significant research in the fields of memory, perception, or eyewitness identification	\$300/hr. max.	
	Fingerprints	Specialized training in fingerprint ID	\$200/hr. max.	Max. 8 hrs.
	Gang Expert	Specialized training or expertise in gang culture	\$150/hr. max.	
	Police Practices/Use-of-Force Expert	Specialized training, or expertise in police practices or use-of-force policies and procedures	\$200/hr. max.	
<b>Deposition / Transcription</b>	Transcription	Authorized transcriptionist pursuant to G.R. 35	\$4.50/page max.	
	Depositions	For testimony preservation/witness interview refusal	\$125/hr. max.	

	Expert Service Type	Required Credentials	Financial Guidelines	Hourly Guidelines
Mental Health Evaluation	Neuropsychological	Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D. in Psychology / Neuropsychology	\$350/hr. max., \$375/hr. max. for specialized expertise (e.g. FASD, bilingual, cross-cultural, etc.)	Max. 25 hrs.
	Psychiatric	Board-certified Psychiatrist	\$500/hr. max.	Max. 25 hrs.
	Quantitative Electroencephalogram Testing	Board-certified Psychiatrist specializing in QEEG testing	\$4500 flat fee (must include all travel, admin., interpretation, report writing)	
	Psychological	Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D. in Psychology <u>OR</u> Board-certified Nurse Practitioner with Ph.D.	\$300/hr. max. Up to \$325/hr. for specialized expertise (e.g. FASD, bilingual, cross-cultural, etc.)	Max. 25 hrs.
Medical / Toxicology	Medical or Dental Consultant	M.D., O.D., D.D.S., or D.M.D.	\$500/hr. max.	
	Pathology	M.D. <u>AND</u> Board-certified forensic pathologist or equivalent certification	\$500/hr. max.	
	Pharmacology	Ph.D. in Pharmacology or M.D. with training or expertise in the field	\$375/hr. max. (Ph.D.), \$425/hr. max. (M.D)	
	Toxicology	B.S./B.A. in Chemistry, Toxicology, or Pharmaceutical Science or other related fields	\$300/hr. max.	
	DUI Breath Testing	Specialized training in relevant breath test machine and effects of alcohol	\$300/hr. max.	Max. 10 hrs.
	Drug Recognition Expert/Evaluator	Significant training, education, and experience in drug recognition/evaluation	\$150/hr. max.	
	Forensic Nurse	Registered Nurse with certification in forensic nursing	\$300/hr. max.	
	Veterinarian	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D.)	\$375/hr. max.	



	Expert Service Type	Required Credentials	Financial Guidelines	Hourly Guidelines
Sexual Behavioral Health / Substance Abuse Evaluation	Sexual Behavioral Health Evaluation (Master's)	M.A. in Psychology, Counseling, or Social Work <u>AND</u> Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider	\$200/hr. max. <u>OR</u> up to \$3,000 flat fee	Max. 16 hrs. (\$3,200 max)
	Sexual Behavioral Health Evaluation (Ph.D.)	Psychiatrist/Psychologist <u>AND</u> Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider	\$250/hr. max. <u>OR</u> up to \$3,850 flat fee	Max. 16 hrs. (\$4,000 max)
	Polygraph	Nationally-certified polygraph examiner or equivalent education	\$600 flat fee	
	Substance Abuse Assessment	Washington State Chemical Dependency Professional Certification	\$150/hr. max. <u>OR</u> up to \$400 flat fee	
Case Support	Paralegal (limited to complex cases / cases with voluminous discovery)	Experience in data management and expertise in complex cases; exercises discretion in case prep. Paralegal certification advised but not required	\$50/hr. max.	Max. 50 hrs. per request
	Investigation	Investigator's License pursuant to RCW 18.165.030	\$55/hr. max.	Non-Class A: max. 50 hrs. per request Class A: max. 75 hrs. per request
	Mitigation Specialist	Degree in Social Work or other related fields or significant training, education, and experience in forensic psychology, social work, or other related fields	\$100/hr. max. Up to \$120/hr. for specialized expertise (case-needed foreign language fluency)	Max. 45 hrs. per request / 90 hrs. per case
	Mitigation Video Production	Experience in video production and Mitigation/Sentencing video creation	\$200/hr. max.	Max. 25 hrs.
Interpretation & Translation	Interpretation	Washington State Court Certified interpreters	\$85/hr. max, \$340/half-day	
	Document Translation	For translation of written documents	22 cents per word	Translation of audio at hourly interpretation rate