

# LGBTQ+ LEGAL NEEDS

## DURING COVID-19



Do you need to access a court for a **name change**, a **protection order**, or a **family law dispute**?

- As of 1/13/2021, Courts are hearing non-emergent hearings.

If you are not sure how to handle your situation or would like assistance filling out any of the forms discussed below, you can make an appointment with our free LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic by visiting [www.qlawfoundation.org](http://www qlawfoundation.org) or by calling 206-235-7235.

### Name Changes:

- King County:
  - Forms and information on name changes can be found here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/district-court/name-changes.aspx>
  - The district court filing and hearing schedule found on the link above is not accurate due to COVID-19; call your local courthouse for more information
    - File in-person
      - If you pay with cash, you will be scheduled for the first available hearing
      - If you pay any other way, the hearing will be scheduled 30 days out
      - Hearings are **in-person**
    - E-File here: <https://kcdc-efiling.kingcounty.gov/ecourt/>
      - If you use the e-filing portal, the hearing will be schedule 30 days out
      - Hearings are **in-person**
- Pierce County:
  - Name change petitions can be complete online: <https://linxonline.co.pierce.wa.us/linxweb/Kiosk/main.cfm>
    - You will be given a confirmation number
    - Call to schedule an appointment to pay the filing fee **in-person** and schedule a court date
    - Hearings are **in-person** and held on 11AM on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Snohomish County:
  - Forms and information on the process can be found here: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/581/Legal-Change-of-Name>
    - Bring photo ID
    - Cascade:
      - Filing and scheduling a date is done **in-person**
      - Hearings are held via Zoom or **in-person**, Mondays - Fridays at 8:30am
    - Everett:
      - Filing and scheduling a date is done **in-person**
      - Hearings are held via Zoom, Mondays - Fridays at 8:30am
    - Evergreen:
      - Filing and scheduling a date is done **in-person**
        - You will be scheduled for the first available hearing

- Hearings are held via Zoom, Mondays - Fridays at any time
- South:
  - Filing and scheduling a date is done **in-person**
    - If you petition by 2:30pm, you can be heard the following day
  - Hearings are held via Zoom or **in-person**, Mondays - Fridays at 8:30am
- Spokane County:
  - Forms and information on the process can be found here: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/3074/Name-Change-Forms>
    - Bring ID
    - Filing is done **in-person**
    - Hearings are **ex-parte**, do not require an in-person hearing, and judicial decisions occur Fridays at 9a
      - Certified copies are sent to you via mail

### Emergency Protective Orders:

- King, Snohomish, Pierce, Spokane counties are all accepting protection orders.
- Hearings are via phone or video, and documents may be downloaded online.
- You must file in the county you reside in or the county you resided in when the abuse occurred.
- If you will also be obtaining a domestic violence sealed name change, that is obtained through your local Superior Court.
- King County:
  - Information on the types of POs can be found here: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/PO.aspx>
  - Information on the remote PO filing process can be found here: [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/prosecutor/documents/2020/DV/King\\_County\\_Protection\\_Order\\_Remote\\_Filing.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/prosecutor/documents/2020/DV/King_County_Protection_Order_Remote_Filing.ashx?la=en)
    - Forms can be found here: [www.protectionorder.org](http://www.protectionorder.org)
  - King County District Court enters orders for anti-harassment and stalking
  - Procedures for obtaining these orders during COVID-19 can be found here: [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/DistrictCourt/Harassment/Emergency\\_petition\\_for\\_HAR-STK.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/DistrictCourt/Harassment/Emergency_petition_for_HAR-STK.ashx?la=en)
  - Hearings are held via Zoom
  - Instructions for a domestic violence sealed name change petition can be found here: [http://kcll.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/DV-Sealed-Name-Change-Packet-Instructions\\_and\\_Forms-1.pdf](http://kcll.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/DV-Sealed-Name-Change-Packet-Instructions_and_Forms-1.pdf)
- Pierce County:
  - Information on the types of POs can be found here: <https://piercecountywa.gov/6484/Protection-Orders>
  - Procedures for obtaining these orders during COVID-19 can be found here: <https://piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/90709/EMERGENCY-TEMPORARY-PROCEDURES-FOR-ALL-CIVIL-PROTECTION-ORDERS-3-26-20?bidId=>
  - Petitions are filed **in-person**
    - For intimate partner relationships, you may also telephone the Pierce County Superior Court Clerk's Office (253-798-7455), mail, or email in Petitions
  - Hearings are held via Court Call, except Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders, which are held via Zoom
  - Pierce County District Court enters orders for anti-harassment and stalking
    - Anti-harassment petitions can be complete online: <https://linxonline.co.pierce.wa.us/linxweb/Kiosk/main.cfm>
      - Be sure to designate on the petition form if it is anti-harassment or stalking
      - You will be given a confirmation number

- Call to complete the process
  - Hearings are held via Zoom
- If you will be obtaining a domestic violence sealed name change, you will be referred to the Pierce County Superior Court.
- Snohomish County:
  - Information on the types of protection orders can be found here: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5520/Protection-Orders>
  - Snohomish County Superior Court enters orders for most protection orders
  - All protection order petitions shall be submitted electronically
  - Hearings are held via Zoom
  - Snohomish County District Court enters orders for anti-harassment and stalking
    - Be sure to designate on the petition form if it is anti-harassment or stalking
    - Hearings are held via Zoom
  - For Domestic Violence Sealed Name Changes,
    - Forms are only available **in-person** and filing is done in person with no fee
    - Hearings are **ex-parte** and do not require an in-person hearing
      - It is unknown if these are considered emergent at this time
- Spokane County:
  - Information on the types of protection orders can be found here: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/2789/civil-protection-orders>
  - All Civil Protection Order Petitions must be filed electronically until March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
    - If you don't have computer access, a paper copy of the petition may be dropped off at the Clerk's Office
  - Domestic violence cases are held via Zoom
  - All other cases are held telephonically
  - Spokane County District Court enters orders for all protection orders, except in the circumstances below, where the Superior Court has jurisdiction:
    - Anti-Harassment Orders: If the Respondent is under 18 years of age
    - Sexual Assault Orders: If the Petitioner and Respondent are under 16 years of age
    - Stalking Protection Orders: If the Petitioner and Respondent are under 18 years of age
  - For Domestic Violence Sealed Name Changes,
    - Use the Minor Name Change form, replacing "Minor" with "Adult" OR
    - Use the District Court Adult Name Change Form and edit them to say, "Superior Court" and "Sealed Adult Name Change"

### Family Law motions:

- King County:
  - Forms and information can be found here: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/family-law-instructions.aspx>
  - Information for the procedure can be found here: <https://kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/superior-court/docs/COVID-19/How-to-Get-Things-Done-in-KCSC-Pro-Se.ashx?la=en>
  - Hearings are via video or phone
- Pierce County:
  - Information on Pierce County Family Court can be found here: <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/1016/Family-Court>
  - Forms and information can be found here: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/>

- Refer to the family law docket for information:  
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/90508/Covid-19-emergency-procedures-re-Commissioners-Hearings?bidId=>
  
- Snohomish County:
  - Information on Snohomish County Family Support can be found here:  
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/715/Family-Support>
  - Please refer to information related to domestic motions on this link:  
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5658/COVID-Procedure-Changes-to-Commissioner->
  
- Spokane County:
  - Forms and information for those who are self-representing can be found here:  
<https://www.spokanecounty.org/1410/Family-Court-Instructions>
  - Procedures for obtaining these orders during COVID-19 can be found here:  
<https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/4324/Family-Law-Procedural-Guidelines-PDF?bidId=>
  - Information on how your case may be viewed:  
<https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/36118/COVID-19-Family-Law-Information?bidId=>
  - Filing is done **in-person** or by mail
  - Hearings are held via Zoom

*This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If you would like legal advice, you may make an appointment with an attorney at our free LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic by visiting [www.qlawfoundation.org](http://www.qlawfoundation.org) or by calling 206-235-7235.*