

## Working Agreement for Multi-System Collaboration

I. This Agreement is to support the exchange of information between parties of the agreement in order to give the most coordinated services possible to those children and families involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and is made and entered into as of the date set forth below, by and between the following agencies:

- *King County Superior Court*
- *King County Juvenile Court Services*
- *Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Region 4*
- *Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction*

### II. Definition

"Juvenile justice or care agency" means any of the following: Police, diversion units, court, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, detention center, attorney general, the legislative children's oversight committee, the office of family and children's ombudsman, the department of social and health services and its contracting agencies, schools; persons or public or private agencies having children committed to their custody; and any placement oversight committee created under RCW 72.05.415 (RCW 13.50.010(1)(a))

*There are no additional definitions of the terms used above contained in RCW Chapter 13.50 or RCW Chapter 13.04. Since there is no further statutory definition, it would be a matter of statutory construction as to how these terms are defined. That means that the words would have their ordinary, common meaning.*

### III. Recitals

**Whereas;** all parties are committed to improving cooperation and integration at the administrative and service delivery levels for the benefit of children and families within the purview of the child welfare and juvenile justices systems; and

**Whereas;** all parties agree that such improvements can be supported through the sharing of relevant and necessary information; and

**Whereas;** all parties agree that the exchange of information between "juvenile justice and care agencies" is allowable and encouraged within the parameters defined by RCW 13.50; and

**Whereas;** all parties mutually agree that this agreement shall be interpreted in light of, and consistent with governing State and Federal laws;

IV. The above named agencies agree to work together to:

1. Promote a mutual understanding of the allowances and limitations outlined in RCW 13.50 and other applicable State and Federal laws;
2. Delineate how the agencies and the courts will work together to facilitate information sharing and to ensure that confidential information is disseminated only to the appropriate persons or agencies as provided by law or otherwise pursuant to a lawfully obtained consent form;
3. Train relevant staff in procedures for interagency collaboration and information sharing;
4. Comply with relevant state and federal law and other applicable local rules and ethical standards, which relate to records use, dissemination, and retention/destruction.
5. Comply with relevant state and federal law and other applicable local rules and ethical standards, which relate to the dissemination of information, whether in writing or oral.

V. It is mutually agreed and understood by and between the cooperators that:

1. This agreement does not preclude or preempt each of the agencies individually entering into an agreement with one or more parties to this agreement, nor does it supplant any existing agreement between such parties.
2. Nothing in this **Working Agreement** shall be construed as obligating agencies to expend funds or to provide resources or be involved in any obligation for future payment of money or provision of resources.
3. Amendment within the scope of this **Working Agreement** shall be made by formal consent of all parties by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by the parties, prior to any changes.

VI. Effective Date

In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto have entered into this **Working Agreement** as evidenced by their signatures below. The **Working Agreement** is effective upon the date of the final signature.

**For King County Superior Court:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**For King County Juvenile Court Services**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

***For DSHS/DCFS, Region 4:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Date***

***For Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Date***