

Q1 2026

# DMCMA Quarterly Report-out Packet


DMCMA Programs and Operations Update



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# Agenda

	<p><b>District and Municipal Court Management Association Board Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 10:00am – 12:00pm</b></p> <p><i>Virtual:</i> Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/82362720342?from=addon">https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/82362720342?from=addon</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 831 2557 0517 Passcode: 010202</p> <p>One tap mobile +12532158782,,83125570517#,,,,*010202# US (Tacoma) +12532050468,,83125570517#,,,,*010202# US</p>
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**AGENDA**

Item	Agenda Item	Approximate Time
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Mary Beth Phillips, President 10:00
2.	<b>Adoption of Agenda</b>	Mary Beth Phillips, President 10:10
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes July 15, 2025</b>	Kati Dorman, Secretary 10:15
4.	<b>Approval of Treasurer’s Report</b>	Juanita Sifuentes, Treasurer 10:20
5.	<b>Liaison Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMCJA</li> <li>• AOC CSD Liaison</li> <li>• Office of Court Innovation</li> <li>• <del>Jurists in Residence</del></li> <li>• CLJ-CMS</li> <li>• MPA</li> <li>• Blake</li> <li>• DOL</li> </ul>	<b>Representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Jessica Giner</li> <li>• Angie Autry</li> <li>• Jeanne Englert</li> <li>• <del>Boyd and Ellen</del></li> <li>• <del>Ellen</del></li> <li>• Nancy Shattuck or Dexter Mejia</li> <li>• Regina Alexander</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharon Fogo</li> <li>• Carla Weaver</li> </ul>		
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DEI Education</b> <i>Strengthening Domestic Violence Orders</i> (will count as .5 CAE for DEI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jolsyn Nelson, AOC</li> </ul>	11:15	
7.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>Old Business</b></p>	Mary Beth Phillips, President	12:00	
8.	<b>Adjourn</b>	Mary Beth Phillips, President	12:10	

**Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 @ 10:00am**

# Treasure Report

## Committee Report: Treasurer Report

Submitted By: **Juanita Sifuentes**

Date Submitted: **01/05/26**

Report Narrative:

The Budget vs Actual report dated January 5, 2026, is attached for Board approval. The check register balance as of January 5, 2026, is \$113,054.74.

Respectfully submitted,

Treasurer Contact: Name: Juanita Sifuentes  
 E-Mail: [Juanita.sifuentes@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Juanita.sifuentes@co.yakima.wa.us)  
 Phone: (509)312-1569

## District and Municipal Court Management Association Budget vs. Actuals

July 2025 - June 2026

	Actual	Total Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Dues	21,874.32	65,000.00	33.65%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 21,874.32</b>	<b>\$ 65,000.00</b>	<b>33.65%</b>
Gross Profit	\$ 21,874.32	\$ 65,000.00	33.65%
<b>Expenses</b>			
Conference	0.00	0.00	
CTC/eCourt	0.00	3,200.00	0.00%
<b>NACM Annual</b>	2,966.16	5,800.00	51.14%
<b>NACM Mid-Year</b>	1,475.41	3,600.00	<b>40.98%</b>
<b>Total Conference</b>	<b>\$ 4,441.57</b>	<b>\$ 12,600.00</b>	<b>35.25%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Education • Annual Conference</b>	0.00	5,500.00	0.00%
<b>Education - DEI Training</b>	0.00	2,000.00	0.00%
<b>Education - Retreat</b>	0.00	500.00	0.00%
<b>Education • Staff Conference</b>	3,958.05	20,000.00	19.79%
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>\$ 3,958.05</b>	<b>\$ 28,000.00</b>	<b>14.14%</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Awards</b>	0.00	1,100.00	0.00%

<b>Board Meeting</b>	158.20	1,400.00	11.30%
<b>Flowers &amp; Cards</b>	134.30	600.00	22.38%
<b>President</b>	0.00	500.00	0.00%
<b>Scholarships</b>	495.00	5,000.00	9.90%
<b>Technology</b>	<b>2,414.34</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>48.29%</b>
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,201.84</b>	<b>\$ 13,600.00</b>	<b>23.54%</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	0.00	0.00	
CU Summit	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
<b>Courts Helping Courts</b>	66.71	2,000.00	3.34%
<b>Highways to Hedges</b>	0.00	700.00	0.00%
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 66.71</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>	<b>1.59%</b>
<b>Travel Expenses</b>	273.00	0.00	
<b>Treasurer</b>	2,662.71	4,500.00	59.17%
Liability Insurance	0.00	1,600.00	0.00%
<b>Total Treasurer</b>	<b>\$ 2,662.71</b>	<b>\$ 6,100.00</b>	<b>43.65%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 14,603.88</b>	<b>\$ 64,500.00</b>	<b>22.64%</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Miscellaneous	259.51	500.00	51.90%
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 259.51</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>51.90%</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-\$ 259.51</b>	<b>-\$ 500.00</b>	<b>51.90%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,010.93</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>XXXXXXXX</b>

Monday, Jan 05, 2026, 10:30:03 AM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis

# **Standing Committee Reports**

## **Education & Conference Committee**

- The committee has been focused on finalizing plans for the 2026 CLJ-Academy, scheduled for February 1–2, 2026, at the Tukwila Justice Center.
- In addition, work is underway to develop a DEI-focused webinar to support members who are short on required credits.
- The committee will begin discussions and planning for the 2026 Line Staff Conference.

## **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee continues to make steady progress on the 2026 membership cycle. The initial notice for membership went out at the end of October, followed by first reminder notice in early December a final reminder will be sent out at the end of January, after which individual follow-up emails to be sent out to courts that have not responded.

As of the date of this report, 130 membership applications received approximately 60% of courts statewide. \$19,500 has been collected for 2026 membership dues through a combination of by credit card & checks.

The Membership Committee is working closely with the Treasure to tack and manage membership dues and maintain accurate membership records for 2026 membership year. At this time, there are no issues requiring Board attention.

## **Legislative Committee**

January 12<sup>th</sup> is the start of the 2026 legislative session. This is a short session, lasting only sixty days before adjourning on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Current budget forecast indicates that much of the legislative time will be focused on where to plug funding gaps.

The DMCJA Legislative Committee is supporting Senate Bill 5865 aimed at updating the standard garnishment forms. There is concern regarding House Bill 1499, returning from the last legislative session, which addresses legal financial obligations. The proposed bill looks to eliminate/repeal many costs associated with criminal cases including misdemeanor probation services. The committee believes that legislators lack a full understanding of how court services are funded and have not proposed any alternatives if certain fees are waived.

The DMCMA Legislative Committee will be sending out the legislative tracker each week during the session, noting bills of interest. Please feel free to reach out to any of our committee members if you have questions or want more information regarding any bills introduced.

## **Courts helping Courts**

Since our last board meeting, a mentorship connection was facilitated for Lincoln County District Court Administrator, and the connection was made through the regional directors.

Courts Helping Courts remains available throughout the year to support courts seeking operational assistance, education, and mentorship at no cost to members. Courts may request assistance by submitting a request through JotForm available DMCA website. The committee operates on a responsive basis, addressing requests as they are received from the membership.

## **Diversity & Equity Committee**

The DEI Committee is currently focused on finalizing learning objectives associated with its strategic plan and anticipates completing the work in January. The committee is also working to clarify how the strategic plan will be managed and implemented moving forward.

In collaboration with Municipal Probation Association (MPA), the committee is planning a training on diverse hiring panels to be offered at the 2026 MPA Conference. This training will be lived streamed and made available at no cost to DMCMCA members and is expected to qualify for ARLJ 14 credits. Additional details will be shared as they are finalized

### **Upcoming priorities for the Committee include:**

- Identifying how to manage our strategic plan
- Identifying trainings and hosting DEI trainings for 2026

### **Issues Requiring Board Attention**

- Budget

## **Technology Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **Long Range Planning Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **By Laws / Policy & Procedure Committee**

Nothing to report at this time

## **State Committee Reports**

### **BJA Alternatives to Incarceration**

The Alternative to Incarceration Task Force wrapped up in December 2025. The final report is in draft form with the committee reviewing the report and final edits are due by January 5, 2026. The final report will complete the work that started in May 2022.

#### **Recent Activities Include:**

- Final Meeting for the whole group and subcommittees
- Draft Report was sent out for final review
- Report to be sent out in January 2026

#### **Upcoming Priorities**

Continued education events at Conferences and Judicial Training on options available for all levels of Judges.

Legislative and policy considerations related to the report are still developing. Future requests to the Legislative Branch may include funding, education, or potential law changes, depending on final recommendations.

#### **Additional Notes:**

There is a program run out of AOC for grant funding for alternatives to incarceration. Court admins and probation officers should be watching those announcements from that team.

### **Boad of Judicial Administration**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **BJA Education Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **BJA Public Engagement Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **BJA Legislative Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **BJA Court Security Task Force**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **Court Management Council**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Data Dissemination Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Interbranch Advisory Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

**GR 34 Rules Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Gender & Justice Commission**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Minority & Justice Commission**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Interpreter Commission**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Pattern Forms**

Nothing to report at this time.

**JIS Codes**

Nothing to report at this time.

**JISC**

Nothing to report at this time.

**CLJ-CMS PSC**

Nothing to report at this time.

# November 2025 Meeting Minutes

## DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL COURT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

### Mission Statement

*To connect and empower court leaders through training, resources, and advocacy that strengthen the performance, equity, and effectiveness of courts statewide.*

### Vision Statement

*To shape the future of court management by uniting professionals, driving continuous improvement, and building courts that inspire public trust and confidence.*

**November 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting held via ZOOM**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

### Officers Present:

President	Mary Beth Phillips
Past President	Frankie Peters
President Elect	Misty Robison
Vice President	Melissa Patrick
Treasurer	Juanita Sifuentes
Secretary	Kati Dorman

### Members Present:

1 Kinlow, Trish	19 Crossen, Jen	37 McSeveney, Andrew
2 Knutsen, Amy	20 Gomez, Maria	38 Olivarez, Samantha
3 Elsner, Suzanne	21 Stiglich, Melisse	39 Morrison, Candace
4 Attebery, Ellen	22 Ramirez, Sonia	40 Thompson, Kris
5 Bennett, Tami	23 Davis, Cynthia	41 Hintz, Peggy
6 Kapaki, MiHa	24 Ward, Justin	42 Valoaga, Nessa
7 Lemley, Sally	25 Gamez, Omar	43 Martin, Molly
8 Attebery, Ellen	26 Cannon, Gail	44 Lucas, Dave
9 Bond, Ellen	27 Farrell, Bryan	45 Dugas, Tracy
10 Littlefield, Whitney	28 Wells, Patrick	46 Johnson, Rachel
11 Lesarge, Kara	29 Smith, Jennifer	47 Ochocinski, Desiree
12 Dunham, Robyn	30 Hansen, Sherri	48 Parks, Tawnya
13 Whitaker, Sharon	31 Witter, John	49 Reeff, Andrea
14 Davis, Marissa	32 Bassen, April	50 Smith, Tonya
15 Meister, Nikki	33 Wiebusch, Jake	51 Howard, Kristina
16 Fields, Kelly	34 Allain, Norma	52 Porras, Elizabeth
17 Pierce, Michelle	35 Jacobucci, Susan	53 Star F?
18 Harte, Amy	36 Beganovic, Alenka	54 Monique???
		55 Haddenham, H?

**Other Attendees Present:**

1	Mejia, Dexter-AOC	4	Weaver, Carla-AOC	7	Fair, Doug-Retired Judge DMCJA Judicial Onboarding Program
2	Kambich, Jamie-AOC	5	Stanley, Christopher-- AOC	8	Englert, Jeanne-AOC
3	Fogo, Sharon-AOC	6	Alexander, Regina-MPA	9	Clements, Tessa--AOC

**Call to Order:** President Mary Beth Phillips calls the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Opening:** Welcome and introduction of board members.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Trish Kinlow makes motion to approve the agenda. Melissa Patrick seconds the motion. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** September 15, 2025, meeting minutes presented. Frankie Peters moves to approve the minutes. Suzie Elsner seconds the motion. Motion passed.

**Approval of Policies & Procedures:** N/A this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer report presented. Melissa Patrick moved to approve the report. Frankie Peters seconds the motion. Motion passed.

**Liaison Reports:**

**DMCJA:** Judge Giner not present and no report.

**DMJA Judicial Onboarding:** Retired Judge Doug Fair presents onboarding of new judicial officers including mentorship to help build the bridge between appointed/elected and judicial collage. Please contact them or have new Judge contact them to get connected. Email: [jadefairs@hotmail.com](mailto:jadefairs@hotmail.com). Phone: 425-478-5205. Ellen Attebery suggested to create a form that each court/court administrator can use to be sent to the new judicial onboarding committee. Discuss with AOC and onboarding committee. Discussion will be continuing on who to create form. Trish Kinlow asked manual be sent to court administrators as well as new judges. A link to put on our website as well for Court Administrators and it will eventually be put on inside courts. Any suggestions or changes from court administrators to the manual should be sent to DMCMA President Mary Beth to discuss and possibly forward to judicial onboarding committee.

**AOC CSD Liaison:** Jamie Kambich for Angie Autry present from AOC.

**TraCS Update:** WSP finished training by end of year and WSP will stop using Sector. Airway Heights Police Department is pilot LEA and others will follow. Issues they are seeing that users are not finalizing the process. If you are missing tickets reach out to see if they completed the process.

DOL/AOC Open Forum: December date changed to December 3<sup>rd</sup> and updated meeting invite was sent. If you forwarded it they will not get it. Please send Angie their emails so they get future updates.

E-file: Joint e-file workgroup with Superior Courts as it will be the same system. Need volunteer for this workgroup: Kati Dorman volunteered.

### **AOC Project Updates:**

CLJ-CMS: Dexter Mejia indicates they are having staffing challenges. They will be recruiting for new positions and have a few staff members on extended leave. Information might need to change until they have secured the resources. They are working on creating better communication, possibly a monthly written report. They are still in data push 1 and in December data push 2.

They are still gathering information to discuss concerns and issues and promises to report back out after the steering committee meeting and how to move forward and address concerns.

OCourt integration successfully connected to the integration platform and retrieved data. Person records initiative-working on PDR records and updating that information and implement and comply with the new rules including courts that use another case management system. They are also creating training and making the training available year round and making work products available and training modes available. They are also working with organizations like WAPA and DOL, etc. Mary Beth indicates we need a member on this business rules committee: Ellen Attebery and Melissa Patrick volunteer to be DMCMA representatives on this committee.

Office of Court Innovation: Jeanne Englert – they have 5 teams: Family Youth Justice Programs, Supreme Court Commissions and Language Access, Behavioral Health, and Equity/Access Team. Language Access are doing a webinar series and link to recordings are available. Behavioral Health Supervisor: Tessa Clements regarding funding of the changes to the funding and updated language regarding the contracts and explained the changes including the re-allocation that can come mid-year (December). Please spend the money and discuss with contracts manager on how you will spend the money.

Blake: Sharon Fogo indicates that have of 30 million in claims to fund still and working on outreach to let people know. Please update your court's funding amounts if that is outstanding as they need that for future funding. If you need a contract please reach out to Sharon. Questions [sharon.fogo@cours.wa.gov](mailto:sharon.fogo@cours.wa.gov)

**MPA:** Regina Alexander present from MPA. They are working on a Webinar December 12<sup>th</sup> regarding the new Deferred Prosecution laws. MPA Memberships are due for 2026 and \$50 per person or 6-10 people is \$200 and 11 or more people is \$500. MPA conference Save the Date April 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of 2026 @ Skamania Lodge.

**DOL:** Carla Weaver indicates ESHB 1493 is a large bill going to create changes to the DIAS application and training will be sent out for staff. If you want one on one training for staff, please reach out to Carla for that training. A lot of mistakes are being made by court staff into DIAS. Have staff attend Court Forum meetings as coding is discussed at

these meetings. Will work on a recorded training video as well. **Do not give out the law and justice phone number to public. This number is for court staff only.** Give out customer care center phone number to public.

Reissue fees need a docket entry on why reissue fees are being requested to be removed and DOL has the ultimate decision regarding the fee.

DOL and AOC are working on getting EJS talking and reporting to EJS and working on law table that will work in DOL from EJS system. The hope is to have it on January 2026.

Need members for committee: and two people have agreed to be on committee and Mary Beth will get the committee their information.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Conference & Education:** Amy Knutsen line staff conference was successful and had 79 courts represented in person and 41 online/livestreamed. Court Administrator Academy will be March 1-3, 2026 in Tukwila.

**Technology:** Ellen Attebery present indicates if anyone has suggestions on keeping court administrators updated please reach out and if you see any issues with website reach out.

**Membership:** Kati Dorman present and indicates 95 applications received 2026 and reminder please make checks payable to DMCMA please do not write checks to Yakima Municipal Court and mail them to Juanita. If you did write a check to Yakima it is in the process of being returned. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kati or Sherri Hansen.

**Legislative:** Patrick Wells present does not have anything to report.

**Long Range Planning:** Misty Robison present indicates finished the DMCMA missions, visions, and guiding principles which will be used to develop the 2026 and beyond strategic plan. They have been placed on the website, letterhead, and announced them through a newsletter. Finalizing survey and will be sent out by email and regional managers will hold meetings for feedback. Results will also be used for the strategic plan. Some strategic planning that is being reviewed right now are ARLJ 11/GR 29, Continuity of Operations Plan and working on statewide template, and interpreter services and technology. DMCMA does not have representatives on DMCJA workgroup for interpreters and looking at getting us representative. Also working on statewide salary study and letters will be going out to HR departments across the state for information. Also working on other proposals that have been presented.

**By Laws/Policy and Procedures:** No report.

**Courts Helping Courts:** No report.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** Bryan Farrell present and indicates they are working on learning objectives and sending out strategic plan after the first of the year. Meetings have been changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2-3pm.

### **State Committee Reports**

**BJA and Court Management Council:** Frankie Peters present they talked about toolkit. Concern about budget statewide and local level. BJA has announced the Court Manager of the Year for 2025 was Marlin (Whitman County).

**Court Management Council:** reported with BJA report.

**BJA Court Education Committee:** Amy Knutsen present no report.

**BJA Public Engagement & Education Committee:** No Report

**BJA Court Security:** Suzie Elsner present and indicates that Kyle Landry is no longer with AOC and AOC is currently looking for a replacement.

**BJA Legislative Committee:** Frankie Peters present and indicates that are doing technical correction and working on getting Judicial Information/Court Administrator/Court staff off websites inside the statutes.

**BJA Alternatives to Incarceration:** No Report.

**Data Dissemination Committee:** No report.

**Interbranch Advisory Committee:** No report.

**GR 34 Rules Committee:** Kati Dorman present and indicates we still need an alternate. They are working on discussion regarding definition of protem and AOC is working on training for protems statewide.

**Gender & Justice Commission:** No report.

**Minority & Justice Commission:** No report.

**Interpreter Commission:** No report.

**Pattern Forms:** No report.

**JIS Codes:** Frankie Peters present and reports they are working on changes for formatting changes on civil protection orders.

**JISC:** Frankie Peters and Suzi Elsner present indicates they are working on person matching and integration with Ocourt.

**CLJ/CMS PSC:** Frankie Peters and Suzi Elsner present indicates that they are waiting for the 2025 version but AOC has received part of it and an in-depth conversation will take place later today.

**New Business:** Mary Beth indicates beginning in January, state reports will be submitted using a standardized template and will be included with the minutes. There will be no verbal report-outs during the meeting.

Instead, the final 30 minutes of each meeting will be dedicated to education or guest speakers. We will also be using this time to demonstrate the new system for court administrators and provide an overview of what it looks like.

If you would like to see the new system demonstrated, or if you have suggestions for speakers you would like the group to hear from, please email me.

Reminder designation forms for ARLJ 14 needs to be filled out and sent back. Still looking at committee replacements and she will reach out.

Request by Angie Autry to add efile & serve work group, Mary Beth will be adding it to report out.

Dexter request to present to the group of data issues for awareness.

**Old Business:** None

Mary Beth thanked executive board and everyone for attending and meeting adjourned 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted, Kati Dorman, Secretary



# CLJ Therapeutic Court Funding Update

Tessa Clements  
November 2025

# Objectives

- Review fiscal information from previous years
- Review State Fiscal Year 2026 allotments
- Share information on spending to date
- Review changes in agreement language over time
- Share information that guides decision making

# State Fiscal Year 2024

- Total Allocated:  
\$9,472,830.88
- Total Spent:  
\$5,489,406.62
- Total Underspent:  
\$3,983,424.26

**Underspent**  
**41.4%**

# State Fiscal Year 2025

- Total Allocated:  
\$9,461,728.90
- Total Spent:  
\$7,949,602.07
- Total Underspent:  
\$1,512,126.84

**Underspent  
16%**

# State Fiscal Year 2026

- Total Allocated:  
\$8,916,169.80
- Total Spent Q1:  
\$1,637,415.76
- % spent Q1  
18

Ideal Q1 % spend:  
**25**

# Updates in State Fiscal Year 2026

- Added contract manager through partnership with WTSC
  - Ginnava Hooft- DUI Court Coordinator
- Welcomed a new contract manager replacing Mindy
  - Marina Richardson
- Updated allowable expenditures
  - Clarified generally accepted government fiscal responsibilities
- Addressed CLJ TC funding intent
  - To fund courts that meet the intent of RCW 2.30

## **Guest Speaker**

**Joslyn Nelson DEI Training, DV and Disability**

# Disability and Domestic Violence:

---

Addressing Barriers in Legal Protections

# Why this Matters

- Increased Risk for Women: 80% of women with disabilities have been sexually assaulted, and they face intimate partner violence at a rate 40% higher than non-disabled women.
- Disabled individuals experience 4x higher victimization rates compared to non-disabled individuals.

# Disclaimer / Sensitivity Acknowledgment Slide

- Today's content addresses domestic violence and disability
- Some material may be difficult or triggering
- Please care for yourself during this session



# Domestic Violence Data





# What Do We Mean by Domestic Violence?

- Defined in Washington law (RCW 7.105)
- Includes physical harm, fear of harm, stalking, sexual assault, coercive control
- Can occur in intimate, family, or caregiver relationships
- Survivors with disabilities may face additional forms of control (withholding medication, restricting mobility, blocking access to aids/services)

[RCW 7.105.010](#)

# Domestic Violence in Civil and Criminal Courts

- **Civil:** RCW 7.105 governs protection orders (DVPOs, sexual assault, stalking, vulnerable adult)
- **Criminal:** DV charges prosecuted under **RCW 10.99** (Domestic Violence, Official Response Act) and related criminal statutes (assault, harassment, etc.)
- **Courts handle:**
  - Protection orders (civil)
  - Criminal charges and sentencing (criminal)
  - Overlap: violations of protection orders can be criminal offenses
- Both systems must ensure **disability access and ADA compliance**



# National Disability & Domestic Violence Data

- People with disabilities report DV at 5× higher rates than non-disabled adults
- 54.7% with disabilities vs. 41.7% without report lifetime IPV
- Highest rates among those with cognitive disabilities
- Women with disabilities face more sexual violence & stalking
- About **1 in 4 men in the U.S.** report lifetime intimate partner violence
- Men with disabilities experience IPV at **higher rates** than men without disabilities

# Crime Statistics 2017-2019

26% were victims of nonfatal violent crime, while accounting for about 12% of the population

4x higher rate of violent victimization compared to persons without disabilities

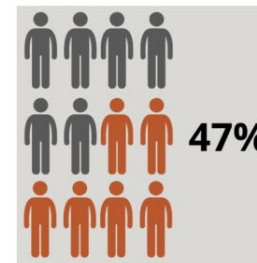
33% of victims of robberies had at least one disability

8.3% – Individuals with cognitive disabilities have the highest rate of violent victimization among people with disabilities.

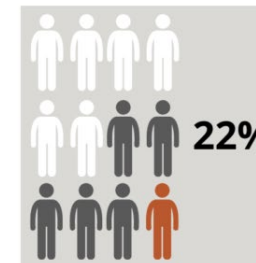
19% of rapes/sexual assaults were reported to the police, compared to 36% of those without disabilities.

## Crimes Involving Victims with Disabilities

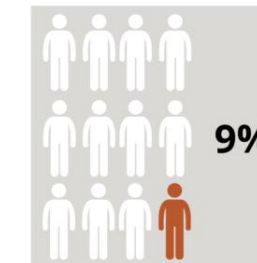
Violent crimes reported to the police



People charged with an offense



People convicted of an offense



**TABLE 5**

**Rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities, by disability type and type of crime, 2017–19**

Disability type	Violent crime	Violent crime, excluding simple assault	Simple assault
Hearing	23.6 †	9.4 †	14.2 †
Vision	47.6 †	26.0 †	21.6 †
Cognitive*	83.3	34.6	48.7
Ambulatory	34.7 †	15.0 †	19.7 †
Self-care	37.1 †	16.6 †	20.5 †
Independent living	38.4 †	20.2 †	18.1 †

Note: Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. resident population age 12 or older. Includes persons with multiple disability types. Rates are per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, except for the rates for independent living disabilities, which are per 1,000 persons age 15 or older. See *Methodology*. Violent crime, excluding simple assault, includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017–19.

# Domestic Violence in Washington

- 51,491 DV offenses reported in WA (2015; ~737 per 100,000 population)
- 42.6% of women & 28.3% of men report lifetime IPV exposure
- Nearly 49% of female homicides are linked to intimate partners
- 12.9% of violent deaths (2015–2020) tied to DV
- **No state data disaggregated for disability — a critical gap**

[Domestic Violence Fatalities and Homicide Rates in Washington State](#)

# Youth, Disability, and Domestic Violence

- Disabled youth can face violence in dating relationships and at home
- Abuse by caregivers may include withholding medication, mobility aids, or daily supports
- WA Healthy Youth Survey: 18% of 10th graders report unwanted sexual or physical contact
- National data: youth with disabilities are 2× more likely to experience violence than peers

\*Washington does not track DV data disaggregated by disability + youth\*

# Intersectional Realities

LGBTQ+ survivors with disabilities experience elevated DV risk

Native women in WA are disproportionately represented in DV fatalities; disability not tracked

Survivors with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, increasing dependency on abusers

DV can also take the form of caregiver abuse (family, institutional, personal aides)

# Barriers Survivors Face

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# Infantilization and Court Bias

- People with disabilities are often infantilized in court processes
- Seen as non-sexual → reports of DV or sexual assault are dismissed
- Seen as dependent → credibility as parents or caregivers is questioned
- This bias erases experiences of sexual violence, reproductive coercion, and DV
- Results in survivors being disbelieved, discredited, or denied protection



# Barriers Faced by Disabled Survivors

- Less than 30% of domestic violence shelters are fully accessible to disabled individuals.
- Many survivors struggle with filing for DV orders due to mobility, cognitive, or communication barriers.
- Underreporting of Abuse: An estimated 70% to 85% of abuse cases against disabled individuals go unreported.
- Black and Indigenous disabled survivors face even harsher treatment due to racial biases in the justice system.
- Shelter Accessibility Issues: Emergency housing accessibility varies widely, with some shelters lacking necessary accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
- For Men, Barriers include stigma, lack of services, and disbelief when men disclose abuse

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

[Marshall Digital Scholar - Accessibility of DV Shelters](#)

Accessible Shelters for Survivors of Domestic Violence with Paralysis

# When Courts Cause Harm in DV Cases

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Survivors must often retell their story multiple times to different court actors

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Requests for “proof” can invalidate lived experience

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Courtroom dynamics can mirror control and silencing tactics

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Re-traumatization occurs when survivors are not believed, rushed, or dismissed

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For disabled survivors, barriers compound: access, credibility, and autonomy

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# Where We Fail Survivors with Disabilities

## Police

- Misclassify DV calls as “mental health” or disturbances
- Fail to document or photograph injuries when disability complicates reporting
- Don’t provide interpreters or accessible communication at the scene
- Minimize caregiver abuse as “family issues” instead of DV

## Lawyers

- Don’t raise accommodations early or put access needs on the record
- Rely on credibility arguments that exploit disability differences
- Fail to explain court processes in plain language to disabled clients
- Neglect to challenge when survivor testimony is cut short or dismissed

## Judges

- Deny or delay orders because survivors struggle to testify in “expected” ways
- Dismiss caregiver abuse as outside DV scope
- Rush hearings, forcing survivors with processing or communication needs into failure
- Allow courtroom environments (open waiting areas, no remote options) to endanger survivors
- Fail to enforce violations consistently, signaling orders are optional

# Accessibility Challenges in Courts (Physical & Sensory Disabilities)

- Many courthouses remain physically inaccessible, preventing survivors from filing DV orders or attending hearings.
- Lack of ASL interpreters, Braille materials, and digital accessibility creates major barriers to justice.
- Remote court hearings have helped, but availability is inconsistent across jurisdictions.

# Court Accessibility Challenges for Neurodivergent & Disabled Survivors

## Neurodivergent survivors (Autistic, ADHD, PDA, etc.) face:

- Sensory overload in courtrooms (bright lights, loud noises, chaotic environments).
- Rigid legal processes that don't accommodate processing delays or communication differences.

## Survivors with psychiatric disabilities (PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc.) face:

- Judicial bias questioning their credibility due to disability-related behaviors.
- Higher rates of involuntary psychiatric holds instead of protection.



# Challenges Survivors Face in Court

# Credibility Issues Faced by Disabled Survivors

- Law enforcement, courts, and advocates often doubt testimony from disabled survivors.
- Women of color and trans survivors with disabilities are more likely to be criminalized rather than protected.
- Perceived as Less Credible: Ableist biases lead to skepticism about disabled survivors' testimonies
- Abusers exploit these biases to discredit survivors and avoid consequences.
- Systemic Discrimination: Biases within the legal system can result in inadequate protection for disabled survivors.

# Caregiver Abuse & Shelter Access

- Many disabled survivors depend on abusive caregivers, making it harder to leave.
- Most DV shelters are not fully accessible. Many still deny entry to survivors with service animals or assistive devices.
- LGBTQ+ disabled survivors face additional challenges finding gender-affirming, accessible shelters.

[What to Do When Your Abusive Partner is Also Your Caregiver](#)  
[Disability & Domestic Abuse](#)

# Strengthening Legal Protections Through a Disability Justice Lens

- Many courts lack dedicated staff to help disabled individuals navigate legal processes.  
We need more ADA coordinators.
- Disability Justice means centering those most impacted, POC, LGBTQ+, and disabled survivors.
- We must expand universal design principles in all legal services, ensuring full accessibility for survivors.
- Legal systems must recognize and counteract implicit bias that harms marginalized disabled survivors.
- Universal design for court processes (digital forms, alternative communication options).
- Mandate accessibility audits to track and enforce compliance.

# Addressing Civil Rights Violations Against Disabled Survivors

## Key Issues:

- Many DV cases involving disabled survivors involve civil rights violations.
- Underreporting of abuse is widespread due to fear of institutionalization.
- State agencies fail to provide proper accommodations.
- Disabled survivors of color are more likely to be institutionalized instead of supported.

## Key Actions:

- Strengthen DOJ oversight of ADA violations in DV cases.
- Enforce penalties for courts and shelters failing to accommodate disabled survivors.



What can we do?

# Call to Action: Policy & Training Recommendations

- Training on Ableism & Disability Bias
- Judges, attorneys, and law enforcement must be trained to:
- Recognize and challenge ableist biases in legal proceedings.
- Improve communication strategies for survivors using AAC, interpreters, or alternative testimony formats.
- Ensure gender-affirming, culturally competent legal services for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC disabled survivors
- Understand how disability and domestic violence intersect.

# Strengthening Enforcement & Accessibility

## Ensure

- Ensure protection orders are fully accessible with:
- Plain-language forms, digital filing, and remote testimony options.
- Faster emergency response for survivors needing ADA accommodations.
- Increase tracking & enforcement of court accommodations

## Require

- Require public reporting on ADA request compliance.
- Implement independent audits to assess whether survivors get the help they need.

## Improve

- Improve DV shelter accessibility through:
- More funding for physical modifications (ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms).

# Identifying Survivors' Needs

- Current court forms rarely ask about **accommodations or support needs**
- Survivors shouldn't have to disclose a **diagnosis**, only what will help them participate
- Intake can include a short, plain-language question such as:  
*“Do you need any support or accommodation to fully participate in court (examples: communication, mobility, scheduling, sensory, assistance with forms)?”*
- Early identification → courts can connect survivors with ADA coordinators and resources

# Community–Court Partnerships

- Survivors often first disclose to advocates, police, or disability service providers, not directly to courts
- Accessible community services (shelters, hotlines, advocacy programs) make court participation possible
- Referral pathways: Courts can connect survivors with advocates for safety planning, housing, and support
- Joint training: Cross-training between courts, law enforcement, and DV/disability programs builds shared understanding
- Advisory input: Community advocates and survivors with disabilities can help courts improve forms, processes, and policy
- Consistency across counties: Partnerships reduce the “luck of the draw” problem and make protections equitable statewide

# Strengthening ADA Coordination in Courts

- Washington courts already require ADA Coordinators, but...
  - Implementation is inconsistent. Survivors report delays in accommodations.
  - Clear enforcement is needed to hold courts accountable.
- Key Actions:
  - Standardize best practices for disability accommodations.
  - Mandate court-wide accessibility audits to identify service gaps.
  - Establish a clear complaint process for ADA rights violations.



Questions

