Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic

November Newsletter

Welcome to November! Just a quick heads-up that our off-site hours at the Interchange will be shifting with daylight savings. Thank you so much to everyone for your wonderful support and cooperation.



Court Orders and Supervised Visitation

The Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic's supervised visitation program (The Interchange) recently entered its 30th year in providing supervised visitation services to individuals in the Spokane area. The firm first began its services on a limited basis in 1996 and launched a wider based program two years later. Today, the facility provides almost three hundred hours of supervision each month under strict guidelines as adopted by Superior Courts in the State of Washington. This article looks at some of those rules.

The Court places three strict rules on any provider of supervised services. Specifically, a supervisor must be willing and able to a) intervene and document any violations of visitation rules, b) end the visit if the children's physical or emotional safety is at risk or if the parent will not follow the court order, and c) be present for the entire visit and provide strict supervision or monitoring supervision as ordered by the court.

Each of these requirements is prescribed by the Court and detailed in all "intake" sessions completed by the firm with new participants in the program.



In addition to the strict requirements on the supervisory firm, the Court also imposes strict rules on the parents involved in the supervisory process. The list of mandated requirements is as follows:

1. Arrive and depart as requested by the supervisor.
2. Stay within the supervisor's line of sight and range of hearing.
3. Ensure the visitation supervisor is able to hear all conversations with the children.
4. Not communicate in a manner that the supervisor can't understand.
5. Not endanger or harm the child.
6. Not physically discipline the child.
7. Not make derogatory, threatening, or disparaging remarks about any family member.
8. Not discuss legal proceedings with the children.
9. Not make promises to the children about future rulings from the court.

In addition to the above there are a number of items which could be added to the court order such as how diapers could be changed, no visits while under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs, or the bringing of gifts for a child or the children involved.



The Fulcrum Interchange is pleased to work with the Superior Court and all parents who have been ordered to supervised visitation. The goal of the Interchange is to provide a family environment for all of those who participate in visits, on site or offsite, at its facilities.



Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic

Funds for Low Income

The new federal fiscal year began with good news for participants in the Fulcrum Interchange Program and those who require mediation service if those participants require some financial assistance. Fulcrum received a slight increase in its Access and Visitation Grant for the next 12 months. The funds provide assistance to those who are use the Interchange for supervised services and for those using mediation services. Grant participants are required to provide proof of income. The grant assistance is paid to the firm following billing on a monthly basis.

Local Grant Requests

The Fulcrum Organization continues to look for small grant opportunities with local organizations to further its outreach in providing services. It has sent out a number of letters of inquiry to secure applications for potential funding. Through the years, Fulcrum has received a number of smaller grants to offset some of the costs of its programs.

Need a Training?

Fulcrum staff members continue to provide relatively small (two to four hours) business training classes on specific identified subjects. The firm works directly with local businesses to develop courses that meet expectations for personnel trainings and professional advancement. Requests for such trainings, or the development of curriculums, should be made to the Intake Specialist at Fulcrum. Trainings from development to completion of the training usually takes a couple of weeks.

USDA Program Insights

The Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic continued to have a busy month under its contract with the United States Department of Agriculture to provide agricultural related mediation services in in the states of Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. During the month, the firm held mediations for agricultural producers in two of the three states. Recent cases have dealt with issues involving the Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, and the leasing of farm equipment. Recently, Fulcrum was informed that the continuing resolution under which Congress is now operating continues to fund all 45 certified states included in the USDA certified mediation program.





Board Completion Finalized

Resolution Washington, the statewide association of dispute resolution centers in Washington State, has just appointed two new board members. The selection of the two members completes the board's membership. The formation of the Board of Directors was a requirement of the Washington State Department of Commerce as the department provides nine million dollars a year to assist in the funding of all dispute resolution centers and clinics in Washington State.

Rural Development Hearings

Recently, Fulcrum completed two grievance hearings for the Department of Rural Development. Both hearings involved concerns about charges for low-income housing and the need for accommodation services. Rural Development hearing examiner decisions are appealable by the agency for a period of 10 days after the decision is issued.





Sexual Exploitation Prevention

The first two months of the 2026-2027 academic year in Washington State public schools have been busy months for the Fulcrum SAVE ONE Sexual Exploitation Prevention Program. The Fulcrum program continues to have its materials on the Superintendent of Public Instruction web site for use in all high schools and middle schools in Washington State. Program Director Jaclyn Coyle continues to update the material on a monthly basis.

In addition to those duties, Ms. Coyle continues to make presentations in local high school classes, meet with student groups, address administrator meetings, and hold parental forums designed for discussion and distribution of sexual exploitation prevention materials.

Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic Interchange



Welcome to the 11th month of the year. We get to celebrate Thanksgiving, and we begin to get ready for Christmas.

All of us at the Interchange are excited to share this time of year with each and every parent, and each and every child using the facility.

Happy Holidays. My best. Haven

New Supervisors to Serve

The Fulcrum Interchange is pleased to welcome Caitlyn to our supervisory staff. She joins the Fulcrum with a background of customer service, a history of professional communicative endeavors, and new ideas to improve the Interchange operations. We know she will provide the best in family-oriented services to our clients and children.

Hours for Offsite

With the end of daylight savings time on November 1st , all participating families are reminded that the early hours of darkness require some changes in the Interchange offsite hours of operation. All families participating in offsite activities must be back in the Interchange 30 minutes before sunset. There are no additional allowances for time restrictions. In most cases during the winter, offsites will end around 4:00 p.m. on any given day.

Concession Machine

There is a new owner of the concession machine currently found in the lunch room of the Interchange. The owner of the machine has indicated he will keep the prices of all concession machine items at a price that is as low as possible for his return, and for the cost to Interchange clients. Charges for most soft drinks average $1.00. Candy bars and snack packets average $1.50. Cash is required for the machine.



Intake Procedure

Newly adopted guidelines for the Interchange intake process require that all families contacting the interchange for service, are to be scheduled for visitations within 10 days. That means that all paperwork, intake sessions, and identification of pre-visit issues must be completed in that time. The Interchange is committed to providing parents quick access to services during this upcoming holiday season.

Application Review

Interchange parents currently utilizing the Access and Visitation Grant Program to assist with payment of their visits should contact the Interchange Director for a grant assistance review based on current income levels and new grant allocations. The review should not take very long, and should be based on the current income of the grant participant.

Game Room Activities

Games have been added for families utilizing the Interchange game room. Those games allow for a more active element of participation by all family members. To date, children and parents have found the additional space and the ability to be more active to be pluses to the Interchange environment.

Day After Thanksgiving

All Interchange activities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. All scheduling, visitation, and interoffice activities will resume on the Friday after Thanksgiving.



Haven Award

This month's Haven Award goes to Caitlin. Primarily, she currently handles weekend visitation sessions for children and parents. Then, in addition to providing nearly 16 hours of supervision each weekend, she provides oversight to Interchange cleaning procedures, takes care of all movies and games, and makes sure toys are where children can find them. Congratulations to Caitlin.



THE FULCRUM INSTITUTE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLINIC:

Phone Number: (509) 838-2799
Website: www.fulcrumdispute.org
Questions: Call us today

