CITY OF BATTLE GROUND
RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING A PUBLIC DEFENSE CASE WEIGHTING POLICY

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2025, City Council adopted Resolution 25-09 adopting the Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25700-A-1644 on public defense standards for Indigent Defense Services; and

WHEREAS, as part of this resolution, case load standards were modified, reducing the number of cases allowed in a 12-month period for appointed attorneys; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions that will benefit most from case weighting are those with a higher concentration of simple offenses, probation violations and cases that regularly resolve in early non-criminal dispositions; and

WHERAS, pursuant to separate interlocal agreements between the City of Battle Ground and the Cities of La Center and Ridgefield, Battle Ground Municipal Court serves as the limited jurisdiction court for each of those jurisdictions; and now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: **Adoption of Policy**. The City of Battle Ground Public Defense Model Case Weighting Policy establishing numerical weighting of cases is hereby adopted and attached (Attachment A) to this Resolution.

SECTION 2: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall be effective January 1, 2026.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY. In the event that any section, sentence, or clause of this resolution shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, such action shall not be deemed to affect any other section, sentence or clause of this resolution.

ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

Approved:
CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

E. Overholser (Jan 21, 2026 09:26:30 PST)

Eric Overholser, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Halili

Elizabeth Halili, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Kirk Ehlis
Kirk Ehlis (Jan 21, 2026 09:38:33 PST)

Kirk Ehlis, City Attorney

Effective Date: 01.01.2026	Page: 1 of 1

POLICY

Cancels: New
See Also: Case Weighting for: Community Court Cases; and Probation Violations

Approved by: CEL & AWW

POL-26-001

This policy applies to all cases assigned to Community Court Public Defender for case weighting.]

1. Individuals opting into Community Court will be assigned a Public Defender to help guide them through the Referral Plan to opt-in along with the numerous ROI's that need to be signed for the appropriate treatment agencies.

Public Defender Role for Community Court:

- The Public Defender is an essential member of the Community Court team and will work in partnership with the Community Court Team. The Public Defender will attend all Community Court staffing meetings, and act as a safeguard of the accused's Constitutional rights at all times. The Public Defender fulfills this role of guardianship by acting as an advocate for the participant. The Public Defender will advise clients of the Community Court Program and recommend potential participants to the rest of the Community Court Team. The defense attorney agrees to engage and provide information useful for collaboration and crafting of customized programs for their clients. The defense attorney has a primary role in communicating program incentives, offers, risks, and outcomes of choosing either course of action prior to their client opting into the community court program.

- The Public Defender recognizes the beneficial opportunities provided to their clients that Community Court might provide, with the goal of identifying a resolution that addresses a participant's unique challenges. However, it is always the defense attorney's constitutional and ethical duty to represent their client's best interests. Due to this responsibility, it may be the case that despite the client's challenges, the attorney will advise the client to exercise their right to trial. If the client makes such a decision, the case will be transferred to the traditional docket.

Court Coordinator Role for Community Court:

- *The Community Court Coordinator is responsible for conducting a CCAT, reviewing the DCH of an individual seeking admission. This information is shared with the Prosecutor. The Court Coordinator makes a recommendation to the Prosecutor and Public Defender as to the needs of this individual in order to be successful in Community Court. Once the individual is admitted into Community Court the Court Coordinator is responsible for maintaining vigilant contact with participants and providing them with the encouragement and tools needed to be successful. The Court Coordinator provides weekly, updates to the core team regarding each participant's compliance with the contract by noon every Tuesday.*

- *The Court Coordinator is responsible for leading the Battle Ground Community Court program. The coordinator will be responsible for compiling statistical data, applying for and managing grants, and soliciting community support to enhance services available to program participants. The coordinator will develop and grow relationships with service providers, agencies, and others. They will serve as a primary liaison between the Community Court and the community. The coordinator will research, apply for, and administer grants for the Battle Ground Community Court. They will also contribute to designing and implementing new programs and initiatives for the Community Court. The coordinator will update the Policy and Procedure Manual and Participant Handbook as needed and develop a Memoranda of Understanding between the court and community partners.*

- *The Court Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the participant's compliance with the requirements of the Community Court Order. The Compliance Clerk will report offender non-compliance and participate in Community Court staffing meetings to offer insights and recommendations for participants. The Compliance Clerk will coordinate and monitor treatment referrals and compliance reporting information. They will also conduct in-person and phone meetings with participants, conduct needs assessments as necessary, and work closely with external partners to improve participant outcomes*

- The Court Coordinator responsibilities include the continuous monitoring and reaching out to the participant, and most of the paperwork.

Case Weighting – Community Court Cases:

2. Community Court cases will be weighted as .30 percent of a full point due to the type of court processing. The participants in our Community Court should graduate within 3-6 months.

3. If the participant is revoked from Community Court, then the case will be reassigned to their first assigned Public Defender that appeared at their arraignment.

This policy applies to all Probation Violation Cases assigned to Public Defenders for case weighting.

1. Case(s) assigned to a Public Defender for a probation violation, the case(s) will be weighted as .30 percent of a full point due to the type of court proceeding(s); and the probation violations usually take minimal time to adjudicate compared to a pre-conviction case.

Effective January 1, 2026

Carol Landwehr, Court Administrator — Date: 1-1-2026

Andrew W. Wheeler, Battle Ground Municipal Court Judge — Date: 1/16/2026

Resolution 26-01 Case Weighting Policy for Community Court Cases and Probation Violations

Final Audit Report 2026-01-21

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