

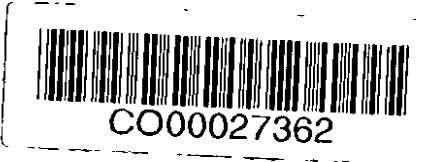
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SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

APR 15 1987

COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington



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ORDINANCE NO. 87-020  
ESTABLISHING DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER;  
CREATING SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.550

BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. A new chapter 2.550 is added to the  
Snohomish County Code as follows:

Chapter 2.550

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

Sections:

- 2.550.010 Snohomish County Dispute Resolution Program is Authorized.
- 2.550.020 Contracting for Program Operator Authorized.
- 2.550.030 Services to be Provided Without Charge or for Fee Based Upon Ability to Pay.
- 2.550.040 Dispute Resolution Agreements Required.
- 2.550.050 Confidentiality of Center's Files, Etc.

2.550.010 Snohomish County Dispute Resolution Program is Authorized.

There shall be established a Snohomish County dispute resolution program to provide mediation services for the citizens of Snohomish County, as authorized by RCW Chapter 7.75.

2.550.020 Contracting for Program Operator Authorized.

The executive may contract with another municipality or a nonprofit corporation meeting the requirements of RCW Chapter 7.75 and this ordinance to operate the Snohomish County dispute resolution center. Any such contract shall be submitted to the council for its approval. Prior to proposing such a contract for the operation of the dispute resolution center, the other municipality or nonprofit corporation shall have received approval by the council of a plan meeting the requirements of RCW 7.75.020.

2.550.030 Services to be Provided Without Charge or for Fee Based Upon Ability to Pay.

A dispute resolution center established under this chapter shall provide dispute resolution services either without charge to the participants or for a fee which is based upon the applicant's ability to pay.

2.550.040 Dispute Resolution Agreements Required.

(1) In conducting a dispute resolution process, a center established under this chapter shall require:

(a) That the disputing parties enter into a written agreement which expresses the method by which they shall attempt to resolve the issues in dispute; and

(b) That at the conclusion of the dispute resolution process, the parties enter into a written agreement which sets forth the settlement of the issues and the future responsibilities, if any, of each party.

(2) A written agreement entered into with the assistance of the center at the conclusion of the written dispute resolution process is admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding.

2.550.050 Confidentiality of Center's Files, Etc.

All memoranda, work notes or products, or case files of the center established under this chapter shall not be considered public records as defined in RCW Chapter 42.17 and are confidential and privileged and are not subject to disclosure in any judicial or administrative proceeding unless the court or administrative tribunal determines that the materials were submitted by a participant to the center for the purpose of avoiding discovery of the material in a subsequent proceeding. Any communication relating to the subject matter of the resolution made during the resolution process by any participant, mediator, or any other person is a privileged communication and is not subject to disclosure in any judicial or administrative proceeding unless all parties to the communication waive the privilege. The foregoing privilege and limitation on evidentiary use does not apply to any communication of a threat that injury or damage may be inflicted on any person or on the property of

a party to the dispute, to the extent the communication may be relevant evidence in a criminal matter.

PASSED this 15th day of April, 1987.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

Shirley Bartholomew  
Chairperson

Approved as to Form:

Gordon W. Fitch 3/6/87  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:

Sheila McAlister  
asst Clerk of Council

- APPROVED
- VETOED
- EMERGENCY

DATE: April 21, 1987  
John Martinis  
JOHN MARTINIS  
Deputy Executive  
County Executive

PUBLISHED \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_