



## Seattle Municipal Court's Domestic Violence Court

In order to improve Seattle Municipal Court's (SMC) commitment to prioritizing domestic violence cases, the Domestic Violence (DV) Court was implemented in September of 2004. While SMC had dedicated calendars for DV arraignment, pretrial, and review hearings prior to the creation of the DV Court, re-evaluation of practices led to a more comprehensive approach to DV cases.

### **Purpose:**

The following items have been identified by SMC as the main purposes of the DV Court:

1. Improve the safety of domestic violence victims.
2. Hold domestic violence perpetrators more consistently accountable.
3. Increase effective management of domestic violence cases.

### **Key Components:**

The DV Court was designed with nationally accepted "best practices" for domestic violence courts in mind. The main components of the DV Court are:

- Dedicated staff, including judges, prosecutors, DV advocates, defense, clerks, and probation.
- A segregated case scheduling system.
- "Cradle-to-grave" case assignment system.
- Initial screening of JIS database for existing court orders.
- Increased probation contacts, including an "Intensive Probation" program for higher-risk offenders.
- Probation Counselors that attend all DV review hearings.

- A firearm surrender program held in conjunction with the Seattle Police Department.
- Interagency cooperation, including participation in the City’s Criminal Justice Domestic Violence Strategic Plan.

**DV Schedule:**

The domestic violence hearings at Seattle Municipal Court are scheduled in the following two courtrooms (in-custody arraignments are heard in a separate courtroom inside the King County Jail):

**Domestic Violence Court 1003**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
9:00 AM	In-Custody DV Pre-Trial Hearings (10) DV Pre-Trial (5)	Trial	Trial	Trial	Non-DV Reviews Bench Warrant Add-On
10:00 AM	DV Pre-Trial (10)				DV Out-of-Custody Arrestment & Readiness
10:30 AM					Motions
11:00 AM				No-Contact Order Drop	
1:30 AM	In-Custody Pre-Trial (3) Pre-Trial (15)			DV-Review (15) Status Check	
2:30 AM	Pre-Trial (10)				

**Domestic Violence Court 1102**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
9:00 AM	In-Custody Pre-Trial Hearings (5) Pre-Trial (10)	Trial	Trial	Trial	Non-DV Reviews Bench Warrant Add-On
10:00 AM	Pre-Trial (10)				DV Out-of-Custody Arrestment & Readiness
10:30 AM					Motions
11:00 AM				No-Contact Order Drop	
1:30 AM	In-Custody DV Pre-Trial (10) DV Pre-Trial (5)			DV-Review (15) Status Check	
2:30 AM	DV Pre-Trial (10)				