

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Dawn Marie Rubio State Court Administrator



New Minor Guardianship Law Effective January 1, 2021

Non-parental Custody Law Repeal on January 1, 2021

****The information provided below is not legal advice. You should consult with an attorney to assist you in determining your options.

What laws are changing on January 1, 2021?

A new minor guardianship law takes effect on January 1, 2021. The law is RCW 11.130. Below is the link for the new law.

https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=11.130&full=true

The non-parental custody law is repealed (goes away) on January 1, 2021. That law is RCW 26.10.

> What happens to a final non-parental custody order on January 1, 2021?

The statute says non-parental custody orders remain in effect and don't need to be reissued.

What happens if I have started a non-parental custody case but it isn't finished on January 1, 2021?

The new law doesn't say what happens to those cases. You might have to start a new case under the minor guardianship law.

What if I have a temporary order in a non-parental custody order case? Is it still in effect on January 1, 2021?

It may or may not be effective on January 1, 2021. The courts will decide whether the temporary orders are still effective.

What law applies if I want to modify (change) or terminate (stop) a nonparental custody order starting January 1, 2021?

The petition to change or stop a non-parental custody order is subject to the requirements of RCW 11.130 starting January 1, 2021. This petition may have to be filed as a guardianship case.