

Spokane County Superior Court Race & Equity Protocol

Preamble: Black, Indigenous, Asian, Hispanic, Latinx, and other people of color (“BIPOC”) have been discriminated against for centuries. Discrimination and inequity based on national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, poverty, and disability, have been experienced by underrepresented people for centuries. The Spokane County Superior Court is committed to recognizing and ending discrimination in all our practices and decisions. Identification of current and future protocols and practices and correcting those that discriminate shall be guided by application of the following:

1. Does the current practice or proposed protocol under consideration, whether through individual or collective action of Spokane County Superior Court Judicial Officers or Administrative Staff, have a disproportionate or discriminatory impact on BIPOC? If so, should the practice be eliminated or should the proposed protocol be abandoned?
2. Does the current practice or proposed protocol under consideration, whether through individual or collective action of Spokane County Superior Court Judicial Officers or Administrative Staff, have a net positive, negative or neutral impact on dismantling structural or systemic racism in the Superior Court’s sphere of influence and beyond?
3. Does the current practice or proposed protocol under consideration, whether through individual or collective action of Spokane County Superior Court Judicial Officers or Administrative Staff, have a disproportional impact based on national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, poverty, disability or other underrepresented people? If so, should the practice be eliminated or should the proposed protocol be abandoned?
4. Does the current practice or proposed protocol under consideration, whether through individual or collective action of Spokane County Superior Court Judicial Officers or Administrative Staff, have a net positive, negative or neutral impact on dismantling structural or systemic discrimination based on national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, poverty, disability or other underrepresented people in the Superior Court’s sphere of influence and beyond?
5. What are the potential unintended consequences of the current practice or proposed protocol under consideration? Can these consequences be prevented or should the current practice or proposed protocol be abandoned?
6. Have we considered and applied the best information collectively available to us in applying the foregoing guidelines?