

## **Presenting Standard Tort Claims to Benton County**

Chapter 4.96 RCW requires counties to receive and process citizen's standard tort claims against them. Benton County objectively determines its liability for claimed injuries. It fairly compensates claimants for damages when liability is supported, and denies claims when liability is unsupported.

### **Presenting a Standard Tort Claim to Benton County**

## **COMPLETING THE STANDARD TORT CLAIM FORM**

The Standard Tort Claim Packet includes the Standard Tort Claim form which must be presented to Benton County. You can present it in person to the Chairman of the Benton County Board of Commissioners or mail it to the Chairman. The County acknowledges receipt of Standard Tort Claim by letter to the Claimant. For claim follow-up or acknowledgment questions, call 509-736-3064.

### **IMPORTANT:**

- # State law requires an original signature on the Standard Tort Claim form. This means standard Tort Claim forms cannot be submitted electronically (fax or email). See presenting information below.
- # The Standard Tort Claim form must be signed by the Claimant; or by a person holding a written power of attorney from the Claimant; or by the attorney in fact for the Claimant; or by an attorney admitted to practice in Washington State on the Claimant's behalf; or by a court-approved guardian ad litem on behalf of the Claimant.
- # The length of the Standard Tort Claim investigation varies greatly depending on the complexity of the issues and the availability of documents and witnesses to support causation and damages. A Standard Tort Claim can be resolved and closed quicker when all relevant information and documents are provided initially for the investigator's consideration.

### **Present in Person or Mail the Standard Tort Claim Form and Supporting Documents to:**

Chairman of Benton County Board of Commissioners  
620 Market Street  
PO box 190  
Prosser, WA 99350

Business hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Board of Commissioner's office is closed on weekends and official state holidays.