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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR ASOTIN COUNTY
AND
THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF CLARKSTON**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
) EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
) ORDER
THE RESPONSE BY ASOTIN COUNTY)
DISTRICT COURT TO THE PUBLIC) NO. 20-01
HEALTH EMERGENCY IN)
WASHINGTON STATE:)

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State.

1. On February 29, 2020, the Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

2. On March 4, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens entered an Emergency Order that states, in part, as follows:

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in these counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their regular operations; and
WHEREAS, presiding judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions.
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court’s authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations as warranted to address the current public health emergency;

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- Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
 - Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as practicable.
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7 3. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency in response to COVID-19; and

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9 4. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Washington State Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation closing all public and private schools within the State for a period of six weeks; and further banning all events and gatherings of 250 persons or more within the State; and

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11 5. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Washington State Governor Inslee delivered yet Another Declaration of Emergency: limiting all gatherings to 50 or less; and temporarily shutting down restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities.

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13 6. The Asotin County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control have both recommended that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people and large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. This includes concert venues, conventions, sporting events, and crowded social gatherings. These health officials identify people at high risk as including people:

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- Over 60 years of age
 - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
 - With weakened immune systems
 - Who are pregnant
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21 7. WHEREAS Jury Service in the Asotin County District Court necessarily involves congregating in relatively close proximity groups of persons who come to court in response to a summons; and

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23 8. WHEREAS regular Court hearings in the Asotin County District Court necessarily involves congregating in relatively close proximity groups of persons who come to court in response to a summons, and/or in order to observe court proceedings;

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26 Therefore, under the authority by Chief Justice Stephens' Order and the authority as a Presiding Judge for Asotin County IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

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1. Effective immediately, all criminal cases are continued to April 7, 2020, or later.
 2. For those matters in pre-trial status, the time period between now and the rescheduled court date is excluded from speedy trial calculation pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8).
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3. All jury trials set between March 16, 2020 and April 13, 2020 are stricken.
 4. Petitions for Protection Orders shall continue as currently scheduled – including, without limitation, domestic violence, anti-harassment, stalking or any other type of order. New petitions for such orders will also be scheduled per the usual rules and practice of the court;
 5. All currently scheduled in-person infraction hearings will be continued to April 20, 2020. Anyone with a pending infraction will continue to have the option to submit written hearings request on line or by mail. Anyone who receives an infraction is still required to respond to the notice of infraction within fifteen (15) days of the date the notice is personally served or, if the notice is served by mail, within eighteen (18) days of the date the notice is mailed. Respondents can continue to respond by mail, place their response in the drop box outside the courthouse, or respond by submitting a written hearings request online within the time frame required.
 6. The Court finds good cause to continue any non-criminal hearings currently set to a date determined by the court and the parties later than April 7, 2020. Any new filings will not be set for hearing earlier than April 6, 2020. Any plaintiff who may be prejudiced by such a continuance may submit a declaration to the court and opposing party for reconsideration.
- It is so Ordered.

This 16 day of March, 2020


Presiding Judge
Asotin County District Court