



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON  
FOR CLARK COUNTY

GENERAL ORDER 20-12

**EMERGENCY DEPENDENCY DOCKET RULE**

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Adopted: April 14, 2020

Updated: May 4, 2020

Beginning May 4, 2020 all Tuesday Dependency dockets are reinstated and will be held telephonically or by video. Parties wishing to participate in their hearings should obtain the call-in information from their attorney or assigned social worker.

Requests for special set hearings will be considered for contested issues. To request a special set for telephonic or video hearing contact the assigned department via email. Agreed orders SHALL be submitted ex parte to the assigned department.

Initial shelter care hearings will proceed as follows:

1. The Attorney General's Office shall notify the Court of an impending pick-up as soon as possible.
2. The Court will appoint the parents' preliminary attorneys and notify all parties of the initial shelter care date and time.
3. The initial shelter care hearing will be held telephonically or by video unless specifically noted otherwise and will include the newly appointed attorneys. In person hearings SHALL observe strict social distancing and other public health measures. Requests for contested shelter care hearings will be accommodated and hearings will be heard telephonically or by video.

## Superior Court of Clark County

Nothing in this order alters the rights of parents under RCW 13.34.090. Attorneys for the parent(s) and the child(ren) must be given contact information for the client and a copy of the dependency petition in order to allow an opportunity to review the supervising agency records prior to the hearing.

Exceptional reasons pursuant to RCW 13.34.070(1) exist to continue all dependency fact-finding hearings that are set between now and a reasonable time after courthouse-based operations resume, unless an agreed order of dependency is entered by telephone, video, or other means that do not require in-person attendance. Matters currently set for these types of hearings will be rescheduled by the assigned department. Fact-finding hearings may be scheduled telephonically or by video upon agreement of all parties.

Adoption and Termination trials may be scheduled by the assigned department to be heard telephonically by video, or in person with appropriate social distance measures in place.

No default orders for dependency fact-findings, termination fact-findings, or Title 13 guardianship fact-findings shall be entered until a reasonable time after courthouse-based operations resume, if these require personal service and in-person court appearances that would jeopardize public health and safety. Default orders may be entered if (a) the defaulted party was served by publication, based upon a court finding that this alternative service was authorized by RCW 13.34.080 (1); or (b) the defaulted party was personally served or accepted service and the court finds, based upon evidence provided by the moving party, that the defaulted party was aware of or had been provided with notice and written information on how to participate in the scheduled hearing by telephone, video or other means. The court may set aside a default order if the party shows they were unable to appear or participate.

All other provisions of Order 25700-B-622 issued by the Washington State Supreme Court on April 30, 2020 are adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2020



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Scott A. Collier, Presiding Judge

Supersedes: Order Adopted April 14, 2020