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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 ) EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE  
 ) ORDER  
THE RESPONSE BY COLUMBIA COUNTY )  
SUPERIOR 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;

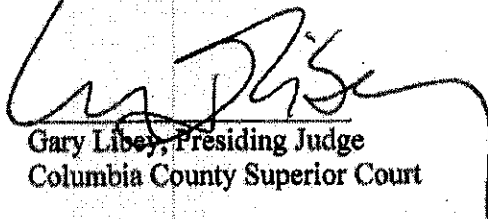
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- 2 • Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or
  - 3 modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of
  - 4 the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
  - 5 • Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an
  - 6 administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the
  - 7 affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as
  - 8 practicable.
- 9
- 10 3. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a
- 11 National Emergency in response to COVID-19; and
- 12
- 13 4. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Washington State Governor Jay Inslee signed a
- 14 Proclamation closing all public and private schools within the State for a period of
- 15 six weeks; and further banning all events and gatherings of 250 persons or more
- 16 within the State; and
- 17
- 18 5. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Washington State Governor Inslee delivered yet
- 19 Another Declaration of Emergency: limiting all gatherings to 50 or less; and
- 20 temporarily shutting down restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational
- 21 facilities.
- 22
- 23 6. The Asotin County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control have both
- 24 recommended that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and
- 25 away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places
- 26 with lots of people and large gatherings where there will be close contact with
- 27 others. This includes concert venues, conventions, sporting events, and crowded
- 28 social gatherings. These health officials identify people at high risk as including
- people:
- Over 60 years of age
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant
7. WHEREAS Jury Service in the Columbia County Superior Court necessarily involves congregating in relatively close proximity groups of persons who come to court in response to a summons; and
8. WHEREAS regular Court hearings in the Columbia County Superior 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;

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

- 3 1) Effective immediately, the Court is continuing all criminal case matters to  
4 April 6, 2020, or later.  
5 2) For those matters in pre-trial status, the time period between now and the  
6 rescheduled court date is excluded from speedy trial calculation pursuant to  
7 CrRJ 3.3(e)(8).  
8 3) All jury trials set between March 16, 2020 and April 6, 2020 are stricken.  
9 4) Petitions for Protection Orders shall continue as currently scheduled -  
10 including, without limitation, domestic violence, anti-harassment, sexual  
11 assault, stalking or any other type of order. New petitions for such orders will  
12 also be scheduled per the usual rules and practice of the court;  
13 5) Civil law and motion calendar set for March 17, 2020 shall continue as  
14 scheduled, with the exception of truancy matters which are stricken. Ex parte  
15 matters will continue to be processed.

16 It is so Ordered.

17 This 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

18   
19 Gary Libey, Presiding Judge  
20 Columbia County Superior Court  
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