

FILED

MAR 18 2020

COLUMBIA CO. DISTRICT COURT
DAYTON MUNICIPAL COURT

COLUMBIA COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
DAYTON MUNICIPAL COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:)	NO. 2020-02
)	
COURT OPERATIONS)	
CREATED BY PUBLIC HEALTH)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EMERGENCY IN WASHINGTON)	
STATE)	
)	
)	

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority to the Presiding Judges of Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and take further actions concerning court operation, as warranted to address the current public health emergency;

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus, including cancellation of large gatherings and social distancing in small gatherings;

WHEREAS, the court is committed to protecting the health, safety and security of our community as well as protecting the constitutional rights of the accused;

NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2020 UNTIL THIS ORDER IS RESCINDED, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1) The Court will maintain regular hours of operation unless otherwise amended by further order and notice to the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- 2) The Court encourages all parties to make payments online, over the phone or through the mail. The Clerks will continue to accept filings and provide copies of documents via email.
- 3) All out of custody arraignments shall be conducted in person in the courtroom. Such in-person hearings shall be limited to no more than twenty (20) defendants at a time.
- 4) All in custody matters, except trials, shall be heard by video. CrRLJ 3.4(d) is hereby modified for all in custody court proceedings will be conducted by video.
- 5) To effectuate these continuances implemented by this general order CrRLJ 3.3, the Time for Trial Rule for criminal matters, CrRLJ 4.1 time for arraignment and time for hearing on civil infractions under IRLJ 2.6 are hereby suspended. The Court specifically finds the ends of justice served by the continuance outweighs the best interest of the public and Defendant's right to a speedy trial due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances caused by the above enunciated public health emergency.
- 6) The Court reserves the right to maintain or schedule arraignments, pretrial hearings, and/or review/revocation hearings between today's date and April 27, 2020 in cases involving threats to public safety, including but not limited to domestic violence and driving while under the influence/physical control offenses.
- 7) Bench warrants will not be issued for any defendant who fails to appear for any criminal hearing, absent extraordinary circumstances.
- 8) Anyone who receives an infraction is still required to respond to the noticed of infraction within fifteen (15) days from the dated the noticed was personally served. The court will continue to accept written statements submitted by mail or email regarding mitigation hearings only.
- 9) All civil motions or other hearings will be heard by the court at their regularly scheduled date and time, subject to the court's ability to limit the number of parties present during any such hearings.


1 10) Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all requests for Temporary Anit-Harassment Orders
2 will be reviewed in chambers based on the written record. Hearings for final Orders will
3 be scheduled as needed at the discretion of the court. The court reserves the right to
4 continue any scheduled full order hearings. The parties must be served with a copy of the
5 continuance order. The maximum length of a temporary order pursuant to RCW
6 10.14.080(2)(Harassment) and RCW 7.92.120(5) Stalking shall be modified and
7 authorized a maximum time for hearing of up to thirty (30) days.

8 11) A defendant who contacts the Court by email or telephone seeking to appear
9 telephonically shall be granted the ability to do so, with the exception of sentencing
10 hearings.

11 12) Litigants and attorneys who appear in Columbia County District Court are expected as
12 much as possible to adhere to the six-foot social distancing from court staff as well as
13 other litigants.

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15 This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of
16 the community as well as the recommendations of the public health officials.

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18 **DATED** this 18 day of March, 2020.

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23 G. Scott Marinella
24 Presiding Judge
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