

**COWLITZ COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
LONGVIEW, KELSO, KALAMA, WOODLAND, and CASTLE ROCK
MUNICIPAL COURTS**

IN RE THE COWLITZ COUNTY DISTRICT COURT (and LONGVIEW, KELSO, KALAMA, WOODLAND, AND CASTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL COURTS) AND THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)	No. 2020-1 EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
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THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Washington has been “ground zero” for this disease.

Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms, for others it can pose a serious and potentially lethal risk as exhibited by the numerous Washington deaths currently attributed to the disease. Governor Inslee also declared a state of emergency and has banned most events with more than 50 people. It has been declared that all Washington elementary and secondary schools will be closed through April 24, 2020.

On March 4, 2020, the Washington Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to the presiding judges of all Washington courts 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.”

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in Washington, the severity of the risk posed to the public, and the authority granted by Order No. 25700-B-602, the current situation demands immediate action by the Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby . . .

ORDERED that effective immediately and until further Order of the Court

1. All criminal and civil jury trials shall be continued to a future date as determined by the Court.
2. All Time For Trial requirements under rule CrRLJ 3.3 are suspended. Once the rule is re-implemented all speedy trial time will be reset to zero.
3. Subject to a written ex parte request which will be reviewed in chambers showing good cause for a hearing date to be accelerated from the continued hearing date, the Court takes the following emergency actions:
 - A. The following civil matters are all continued:
 - (1) Infraction hearings (both contested and mitigation). To effectuate these continuances, IRLJ 2.6(a), (b), (d), (e), and (f) shall be suspended. The Court will continue to accept written statements submitted by mail or e-mail pursuant to IRLJ 2.6(c).
 - (2) Small claims pre trials and trials.
 - (3) Civil trials.
 - (4) Full hearings on civil protection orders. The bench will extend in chambers any temporary orders in effect at the time of the currently scheduled full protection order hearing. The extended temporary order will need to be served on the respondent. To effectuate these continuances, the maximum length of a temporary order issued pursuant to RCW 10.14.080(2) (harassment), RCW 7.92.120(5) (stalking) shall be suspended. These full protection order hearings shall be continued to a date as determined by the Court.
 - (5) Impound of vehicle or vessel hearings.
 - (6) Future impound of animals hearings.

B. The following criminal matters are all continued:

(1) ARRAIGNMENTS: All arraignments (except for DUI or DV offenses). To effectuate these continuances, CrRLJ 4.1(a)(2) shall be suspended. These arraignments shall be continued to a date as determined by the Court.

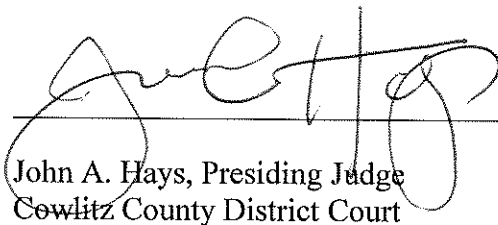
(2) PRETRIALS, READINESS HEARINGS, and OTHER REAVIEWS: Only attorneys and non-represented defendants shall appear in court for pretrials, readiness hearings, or other review hearings. The cases will be reset to a date as determined by the Court. The court will send out notice of the new dates to defendants by mail.

C. A defendant who contacts the Court by email or telephone seeking a hearing to quash an outstanding bench warrant will have any warrants quashed ex-parte by the Court in chambers so long as the defendant provides a current mailing address upon requesting the warrant quashing.

4. Litigants and attorneys are encouraged to contact the Court concerning court dates. District Court can be reached at 360-577-3073.
5. Litigants and attorneys who enter the Cowlitz County Hall of Justice are expected as much as possible to adhere to six foot social distancing from Court staff as well as other litigants.
6. Litigants and attorneys who feel sick should not enter the Cowlitz County Hall of Justice. Anyone deemed by the Court or staff to exhibit illness symptoms may be ordered to leave the building.

Cowlitz County District Court and the Municipal Courts for the Cities of Longview, Kelso, Kalama, Woodland, and Castle Rock remain open.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.



John A. Hays, Presiding Judge
Cowlitz County District Court