

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COUNTIES OF FERRY, PEND OREILLE, AND STEVENS

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
SUPERIOR COURT'S RESPONSE TO THE) **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY) CASE NO. 20-2-00001-33

RE: MODIFICATIONS OF CIVIL, FAMILY,)
AND JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS) Document No. 10
_____)

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all Washington counties due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19 Virus); and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to this Court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

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, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. Anyone showing signs of illness or feeling ill SHALL NOT enter the Ferry, Pend Oreille, or Stevens County Superior Court Courtrooms or Superior Court offices. Anyone deemed by the Court or court staff to exhibit illness symptoms may be ordered to leave the courtrooms or offices.
2. Civil Jury Trials. All civil jury trial terms are cancelled until at least May 31, 2020. Trials that were previously set to occur during this time period shall be rescheduled by the Superior Court Administrator to a date after May 31, 2020.
3. Bench Trials. All civil and family law bench trials shall be rescheduled by the Court Administrator to a date after May 31, 2020, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
4. Civil Status Conferences, Pretrial Hearings and Motions.
 - a. All civil pretrial status conferences will be rescheduled by the Superior Court Administrator to a date after May 31, 2020.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

b. Unless continued by agreement of the parties to a date after May 31, 2020, all civil motions will be decided on the briefing or heard telephonically, at the discretion of the judicial officer. The Superior Court Administrator will arrange telephonic oral arguments.

c. Parties are strongly urged to submit agreed orders of continuance electronically, rather than in person. Agreed orders of continuance may be emailed to pray@stevenscountywa.gov. There is no need to appear on the Ex Parte Docket. Ex Parte presentment fees for agreed continuance orders are hereby waived.

5. Family Law Motions. Only motions pertaining to emergent issues will be heard until May 31, 2020. Unless otherwise continued by agreement of the parties to a date after May 31, 2020, determination of the emergency nature of the motion will be made by judicial officers, who have authority to do any of the following:

- a. Strike a motion that is not emergent;
- b. Continue a motion that is not emergent;
- c. Decide the motion on the pleadings; or
- d. Schedule a hearing in which the parties are instructed to appear telephonically.

Parties are strongly urged to submit agreed orders of continuance electronically, rather than in person. Agreed orders of continuance may be emailed to pray@stevenscountywa.gov. There is no need to appear on the Ex Parte Docket. Ex parte presentment fees for agreed continuance orders are hereby waived.

6. Guardianships. Parties are encouraged to schedule guardianship hearings after May 31, 2020, if possible. Any hearings scheduled will be conducted telephonically.

7. Civil Commitments. Civil Commitment dockets will proceed as regularly scheduled. The current procedures and practices for civil commitment court remain the same, except that telephonic appearances by counsel and witnesses will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible.

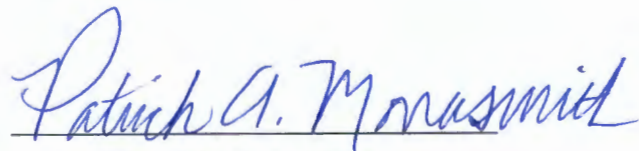
8. Ex Parte Dockets. The Court will hear ex parte motions that are emergent in nature. Telephonic appearances are strongly encouraged. As determined by the Superior Court bench, the following are examples of motions that are considered emergent:

- a. In Forma Pauperis connected with the emergent motion
- b. Protection Orders
- c. Restraining Orders
- d. Writs of Habeas Corpus
- e. Request for Orders to Stay Writ of Restitution

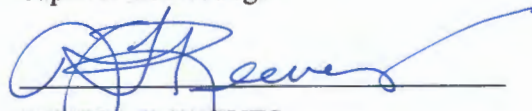
9. Child Support Hearings. All child support hearings, not otherwise subject to #5 above, shall be continued to a date after May 31, 2020.
10. Juvenile Offender Hearings. The Court, upon its own motion, finds a continuance of juvenile offender trials is necessary for the administration of justice. The Court finds that as of March 18, 2020, the danger posed by the COVID-19 virus is good cause to continue juvenile offender trials and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under JuCr 7.8(e)(7).
 - a. Based upon the Court's finding that the serious danger posed by the COVID-19 virus is good cause to continue juvenile offender trials and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under JuCr 7.8(e)(7), the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date are EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial.
 - b. The arraignment rules for out of custody juveniles, as provided in JuCr 7.6 and CrR 4.1(b) are suspended until May 31, 2020. All new filings shall have an arraignment date set after May 31, 2020.
 - c. Plea and disposition hearings will continue to be heard as usual.
 - d. First appearances and arraignments for in-custody juveniles are not affected by this order.
11. Dependency Hearings. Through May 31, 2020, all dependency hearings that must be held on the record shall be heard telephonically, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
12. Termination Hearings. All termination proceedings shall be continued to a date after May 31, 2020. The Assistant Attorney General will coordinate and present continuance orders.
13. ARY/CHINS/Truancy. All ARY/CHINS/Truancy cases shall be suspended, and no new ARY/CHINS cases or contempt hearings shall be scheduled for hearing, until after April 30, 2020.
14. Emergency Juvenile Hearings. The Court will review any request for an emergency hearing on any juvenile matter. Emergencies deal with the health, safety, and welfare of children who are subject to any juvenile case type.

Note: Procedures for adult criminal cases have been addressed by separate administrative order(s).

IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED this 18 day of March, 2020.



PATRICK A. MONASMITH
Superior Court Judge



JESSICA T. REEVES
Superior Court Judge, Presiding