

FILED

MAR 16 2020
COUNTY CLERK
GARFIELD COUNTY WASH

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR GARFIELD COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF)	
THE RESPONSE BY GARFIELD COUNTY))	NO. 2001
SUPERIOR COURT TO THE PUBLIC)	EMERGENCY ORDER #1
HEALTH EMERGENCY IN)	ORDER ON EXPANDED CRITERIA
WASHINGTON STATE)	FOR EXCUSING JURORS BASED
)	UPON PUBLIC HEALTH
)	EMERGENCY

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State.

1. On February 29th, 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 4th, 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;

- 1 • Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or
2 modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of
3 the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
- 4 • Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an
5 administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the
6 affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as
7 practicable.

8 3. WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020, the President of the United States declared a
9 National Emergency in response to COVID-19; and

10 4. WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020 Washington State Governor Jay Inslee signed a
11 Proclamation closing all public and private schools within the State for a period of six weeks;
12 and further banning all events and gatherings of 250 persons or more within the State; and

13 5. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Washington State Governor Inslee delivered yet
14 Another Declaration of Emergency: limiting all gatherings to 50 or less; and temporarily
15 shutting down restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities.

16 6. The Garfield County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control have both
17 recently recommended that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away
18 from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people
19 and large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. This includes concert
20 venues, conventions, sporting events, and crowded social gatherings. These health officials
21 identify people at high risk as including people:

- 22 • Over 60 years of age
- 23 • With underlying health conditions including include heart disease, lung disease, or
24 diabetes
- 25 • With weakened immune systems
- 26 • Who are pregnant

27 7. WHEREAS Jury Service in the Garfield County Superior Court necessarily
28 involves congregating in relatively close proximity groups of persons who come to court in
29 response to a summons; and

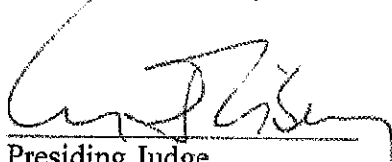
30 8. WHEREAS regular Court hearings in the Garfield County Superior Court
31 necessarily involves congregating in relatively close proximity groups of persons who come
32 to court in response to a summons, and/or in order to observe court proceedings; and

33 Therefore, IT IS ORDERED under the authority by Chief Justice Stephens' Order
34 and the authority as a Presiding Judge for Garfield County that the Superior Court shall enact
35 policies to automatically excuse persons from the jury service who are summoned and fit the
36 public health criteria for high risk populations; regular court hearings shall be scheduled and
37 re-scheduled to minimize congregation of persons; and public seating and congregation shall
38 be limited so as to enforce public/social distancing as is recommended;

1 At a minimum, all Judges and court staff shall follow this policy and it shall be
2 published in all usual locations.

3 It is so Ordered.

4 This 16th day of March, 2020

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6 
7 Presiding Judge
8 Garfield County Superior Court

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR GARFIELD COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE RESPONSE BY GARFIELD COUNTY)
SUPERIOR COURT TO THE PUBLILC)
HEALTH EMERGENCY IN)
WASHINGTON STATE)

NO. 2002
EMERGENCY ORDER #2
ON ALLOWING TELEPHONIC
TESTIMONY IN ALL NON-TRIAL
HEARING FOR ALL CASE TYPES

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State.

1. On February 29th, 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. Garfield County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control has announced to the public the following on their web sites and in the press generally:

Public Health recommends that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people and large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. This includes concert venues, conventions, sporting events, and crowded social gatherings.

People at higher risk include people:

- Over 60 years of age
- With underlying health conditions including include heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
- With weakened immune systems
- Who are pregnant

Public Health has also advised "social distancing" and advised all members of Garfield County to not congregate in groups so as to not spread the COVID-19 disease to those at higher risk.

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2 3. On March 4th, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens entered an Emergency Order
that states, in part, as follows:

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4 WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in
5 these counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their regular
6 operations; and
7 WHEREAS, presiding judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively
8 administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including authority to
9 adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the
10 emergency conditions.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to
12 ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,
13 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 14 1. The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized to adopt, modify,
15 and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court
16 operations as warranted to address the current public health emergency;
17 2. Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or
18 modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of
19 the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
20 3. Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an
21 administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the
22 affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as
23 practicable.

24 ~~3. Counsel, litigants, witnesses, and spectators attend court hearings in the Garfield
25 County courthouse. There may be pretrial motions, requests for petitions, guardianships,
26 protective orders, dependency reviews, or eviction/unlawful detainer matters. This list is not
27 exclusive.~~

28 4. All courtroom hearings, involve the congregation of groups of people.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED under the authority by Chief Justice Stephens' Order
and the authority as a Presiding Judge for Garfield County that the Garfield County Superior
Court may, at any judicial officer's discretion (judges and commissioners), in any civil
motions, family law hearings, civil protection order hearings, civil preliminary proceeding,
and criminal matters:

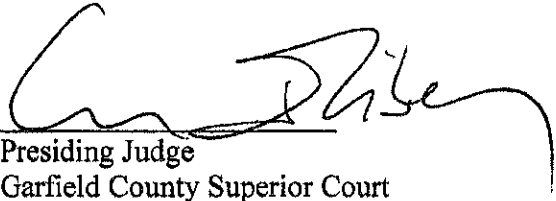
- Order telephonic or other remote communications technology for simple appearances including omnibus/discovery/scheduling conferences, etc.;
- Order telephonic or other remote communications technology for argument;
- Order telephonic or other remote communication technology for testimony;
- This Order does not automatically apply to criminal trials;
- This Order does not apply to those arraignments which require attendance and/or bond hearings, which will continue to be held in person;
- This Order specifically allows telephonic or other remote communication technology for criminal competency proceedings;

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- Counsel may, of course, agree to telephonic testimony in trials at any time;
- Audience/Public attendance shall be limited so as to allow for the Constitutionally-guaranteed Open Courts, but so as to enforce the advised social distancing as is necessary;

It is so Ordered.

This 16th day of March, 2020.



Presiding Judge
Garfield County Superior Court