

FILED

MAY 27 2020

**KIMBERLY A. ALLEN
GRANT COUNTY CLERK**

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR GRANT COUNTY

IN MATTER OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC)
HEALTH EMERGENCY RE:) EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19) ORDER NO. 8
_____)

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court issued an emergency order on March 4, 2020 in response to a public health emergency, caused by the coronavirus/COVID-19, that affects the operations of the trial courts in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, in the past three months the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted additional emergency orders that affected trial court operations and granted emergency authority to trial courts 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; and

WHEREAS, the Grant County Superior Court has issued Emergency Administrative Orders as a result of the public health emergency, caused by the coronavirus/COVID-19, and pursuant to the authority granted to it by the Washington State Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020 allowed for hearings to be conducted via the Webex platform through June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Grant County Superior Court believes use of the Webex platform should be extended considering the current status of the public health emergency, caused by the coronavirus/COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Webex Platform.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), the Grant County Superior Court will continue to use the Webex platform. The procedure for attorneys, litigants and the general public to appear and participate in Court proceedings via the Webex platform as outlined in paragraph 1 of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020 remains in effect.

2. **Civil Matters – General.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), attorneys and litigants in civil matters, including domestic matters, shall utilize the Webex platform to appear and participate in Court proceedings. The procedure for scheduling civil matters identified in paragraphs 2.c. through 2.i. of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020 remains in effect through July 6, 2020.

Agreed orders should continue to be presented ex parte and not scheduled for hearing. Unless it is an emergent matter, parties should mail agreed orders to the Clerk for presentation to the Court.

3. **Civil Matters – Protection Orders, Restraining Orders and Anti-Harassment Orders.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), parties should continue to use the Webex platform to appear by video or telephone at hearings for protection orders, restraining orders, and anti-harassment orders consistent with paragraph 3 of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020.
4. **Civil Matters – Dependency/Termination Matters.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), parties should continue to use the Webex platform to appear at hearings in dependency and termination matters consistent with paragraph 4 of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020.

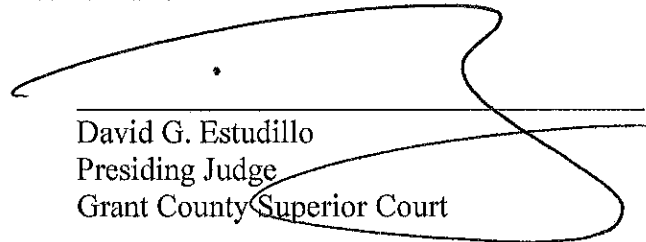
In addition, and absent any further order from the State Supreme Court, dependency and termination trials may be conducted in person (or via the Webex platform if agreed to by all parties and the assigned judge). Strict observance of social distancing and other public health measures, which may include requiring a person to use mouth and nose coverings while in the courtroom, will be enforced during such hearings. However, the parties are encouraged to reach agreement on whether any witnesses (or all of the witnesses) may appear via the Webex platform so as to reduce the number of persons appearing in person.

5. **Criminal Matters – Adult.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), all in custody criminal matters shall be conducted using the Webex platform consistent with paragraph 5.f. (and all of its subparts) of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020. Similarly, through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), all out of custody criminal matters shall be conducted using the Webex platform consistent with paragraph 5.g. (and all of its subparts) of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020.

Absent further order from the State Supreme Court, CrR 3.5 and CrR 3.6 hearings may be conducted in person after June 1, 2020 (or via the Webex platform if agreed to by all parties and the assigned judge). Strict observance of social distancing and other public health measures, which may include requiring a person to use mouth and nose coverings while in the courtroom, will be enforced during such hearings. However, the parties are encouraged to reach agreement on whether any witnesses (or all of the witnesses) may appear via the Webex platform so as to reduce the number of persons appearing in person in court.

6. **Juvenile Offender Matters.** Through July 6, 2020 (unless extended by subsequent order), all out of custody and in custody juvenile offender matters shall be conducted using the Webex platform. In person appearances are allowed only on a limited basis as identified in paragraph 6 of Grant County Superior Court Emergency Order No. 6 dated May 5, 2020.
7. All Webex hearings will not be recorded through the Webex platform and, therefore, will not be available for review through that medium. All hearings will continue to be audio recorded through the courtroom FTR system, or by court reporter, and records of those hearings shall be available to the parties and the public by normal means.
8. This administrative order and other administrative orders previously issued by the Grant County Superior Court in response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 public health emergency may be deemed part of the record in affected cases for purposes of appeal without the need to file the orders in each case.
9. The Court understands the pending public health emergency created by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 is a fluid situation that continues to develop on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. Accordingly, the court will continue to review emerging developments and may issue further administrative orders as necessary.

ORDER DATED: 5/27/2020



David G. Estudillo
Presiding Judge
Grant County Superior Court