

ABERDEEN MUNICIPAL COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE
THEAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**AMENDED
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Aberdeen on March 13, 2020 declared a state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2020 declared a county emergency in Grays Harbor County related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Washington on February 29, 2020 declared a state of emergency in all counties in the state of Washington due to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020 declared a national emergency related to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 declared that the spread of the COVID-19 virus had created a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has the potential to adversely affect the health of people in Grays Harbor County; and

WHEREAS, the Grays Harbor County Health Officer and the Director of Grays Harbor County Public Health reported to the Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners on March 2, 2020 that COVID-19 can result in serious impacts to the health and well-being of the public and could overwhelm the health and medical system in Grays Harbor County; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State on March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court on March 4, 2020 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; and

WHEREAS. the Washington State Supreme Court issued an additional Order on March 18, 2020 and subsequently amended such Order on March 20, 2020 in response to the growing COVID-19 crisis and recognized that it may be necessary for courts to close, suspend in-building operations or otherwise significantly modify their operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to this court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1) The Aberdeen Municipal Court lobby and front counter will remain closed to the public until further order of the court. During this closure, the public may contact court staff by phone, email or fax. The public is also encouraged to visit the court's website to pay fines, pay quash warrant fees, and find court dates. Requests for warrant quashes may be made through the public defender or by calling or mailing the court. Defendants shall be notified by mail or telephone of the court's decision.
- 2) All April jury trials shall be struck and reset for a pretrial hearing for a date after April 24, 2020. All pending out-of-custody criminal matters shall be continued to a date after April 24, 2020. Such date shall be the new commencement date under CrRLJ 3.3.
- 3) Out-of-custody criminal arraignments shall be set no sooner than 45 days after the filing of charges.
- 4) All in-custody criminal matters shall be continued until after April 24, 2020 except arraignments, plea hearings, criminal motions and sentencing hearings. These matters shall be heard by telephone or video. The audio recording shall be preserved for the record.
- 5) All hearings on motions to modify or rescind a domestic violence no-contact order issued by this court shall be conducted by written statement. The instructions and form are located on the court's website and may be submitted by mail, email or fax. The court reserves the right to conduct the hearing by video or telephone with notice to the protected party. The protected party will be notified by mail or telephone of the court's decision.
- 6) There will be no traffic court in April. All mitigation hearings currently scheduled for April 13, 2020 will be continued to May 13, 2020. All contested hearings scheduled for April 15, 2020 will be continued to May 20, 2020.
- 7) Civil cases, including dog hearings, may be heard telephonically or on written statements.
- 8) Community Court participants shall continue to check in weekly with the Judicial Coordinator, Joey Bannish, by telephone.
- 9) The Community Service Program which is run in conjunction with the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department is suspended until further notice.

10) For all hearings continued by effect of this order, notices will be mailed, or court staff will contact the parties by telephone. Any party needing to update his/her address should contact the court.

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

DATED: March 22, 2020

JUDGE SUSAN L SOLAN