

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF GRAYS HARBOR

IN THE MATTER OF

Emergency Response to a Threat
To Public Health

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

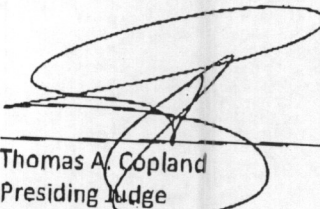
NO. 2020-7D

Due to COVID-19, the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds appears to be the only realistic venue for District Court jury trials. It would also appear that this is going to continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

Superior Court also uses the Fairgrounds for jury trials, and it is the duty of the District Court to defer to Superior Court in matters of this sort. As a practical matter, this means that the Fairgrounds are going to be available for District Court only when the Superior Court is not using these facilities. The result is fewer available dates for District Court matters as well as some level of uncertainty. Both courts are heavily backlogged due to COVID closures.

Because of this, and pursuant to the authority previously granted to this court by the Washington State Supreme Court, the excluded period in calculating time for trial in all District Court criminal cases is hereby extended to February 15, 2021. This extension is necessary for the fair administration of justice during a period where we must take extraordinary measures to protect public health.

DATED this 10th of November, 2020



Thomas A. Copland
Presiding Judge