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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC
HEALTH

GENERAL ORDER 2020-7
COVID-19 Mitigation in
Grays Harbor County
Superior Court

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

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-618 (Filed April 29, 2020), suspending all civil and criminal jury trials until after July 6, 2020, in addition to 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

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3 WHEREAS, this Court issued its Emergency Orders #1 through #6 to respond to the state of
4 emergency and mitigate the effect of COVID-19; and

5 WHEREAS, this Court is now satisfied that the Grays Harbor County Courthouse can safely
6 reopen and resume in-court dockets, hearings and trials with appropriate safeguards in effect;

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

9 1. The Grays Harbor County Courthouse will be open to the public beginning June 29, 2020,
10 provided, however, that all persons entering the courthouse will be subject to the rules and
11 restrictions set forth in this order.

12 2. Any person who is sick or in quarantine shall not enter the Courthouse.

13 3. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned with disinfectant.

14 4. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by
15 using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.

16 5. Effective immediately, no person may enter the courthouse without an appropriate face
17 mask or face covering, unless exempted under paragraph #7 below. Face masks or face
18 coverings must be worn at all times in all public areas and courtrooms within the courthouse.

19 6. Individuals actively participating in a court proceeding may remove their masks when
20 speaking. The Court may also direct the removal of masks worn by active participants to
21 facilitate clear communication and due process. Attorneys and litigants shall address the
22 Court from behind the counsel tables. The podiums in the courtrooms shall no longer be
23 used.

24 7. The following individuals do not need to wear a mask;

25 a) Any child aged two years or less;

26 b) Any child aged 12 years or less unless parents and caregivers supervise the use of face
coverings by children to avoid misuse;

c) Any individual who has a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a
face covering;

d) Any individual who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of
communication or an individual who is communicating with a person who is deaf and
uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication;

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- e) Any individual who has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health-related reasons;
- f) Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

8. Social distancing measures of at least six feet from all other persons will be strictly enforced to the greatest extent practicable in all Courtrooms and public areas in the Courthouse. Each individual courtroom will have a limited capacity due to social distancing.

9. All persons using the courthouse are encouraged to use their own masks or face coverings whenever possible. Face masks will be provided to persons who do not have a mask or face covering.

DATED this 11th day of June 2020.



DAVID L. EDWARDS
PRESIDING JUDGE