

FILED

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GRAYS HARBOR CO.
KYM FOSTER
COUNTY CLERK

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 2020-2

**EMERGENCY ORDER RE:
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Pursuant to General Rule (GR) 21(a), the Presiding Judge of this court issued General Order 2020-1 on March 12, 2020, in response to the public health emergency arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19), which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and which affects the operations of the Grays Harbor County Superior Court.

The severity of the public health emergency has worsened since March 12, 2020, causing several government bodies and elected officials to implement additional measures to protect the public. The President has declared a National Health Emergency, the Governor of Washington has ordered the closure of all schools for six weeks and he placed a limitation on all public gatherings so as not to exceed fifty persons, and the Grays Harbor County Commissioners have ordered that all County buildings be closed to public access.

This court finds that good cause exists to further suspend the operations of the court, as follows:

1. This order incorporates paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of General Order 2020-1.
2. Criminal motion docket:
 - a. All cases scheduled for hearing between March 17 and April 10 shall be continued as set forth in (b) below;
 - b. All cases on the docket for March 23, 2020 shall be placed on the docket for April 13, 2020 for entry of new scheduling orders;

- c. All cases on the docket for March 30, 2020 and April 6, 2020 shall be placed on a special docket for April 15, 2020 for entry of new scheduling orders;
 - d. The court shall continue to conduct preliminary appearance hearings on a daily basis, as needed;
 - e. The Monday dockets for March 23, March 30, and April 6 shall be limited to arraignments, changes of plea, sentencings and motions for release and/or bail reduction; and
 - f. Other motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled, but, must be approved in advance by the presiding judge.
3. Civil motion docket;
 - a. All dockets are suspended until April 13, 2020;
 - b. Motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled for hearing if approved, in advance, by the presiding judge.
 4. Domestic/Family Law motion dockets:
 - a. All dockets are suspended until April 13, 2020;
 - b. Trials shall be conducted as currently scheduled unless continued by order of the court;
 - c. The court shall continue to conduct hearings on Monday mornings for motions for restraining orders, motions for temporary parenting plans and other urgent motions, which must be approved in advance by the presiding judge.
 5. Default Dissolution docket - No changes
 6. Paternity Dockets are suspended until April 13, 2020.
 7. Protection Docket – No changes
 8. Drug Court shall be conducted except it shall be limited to ten participants, who attend without family members or friends. Additional drug court dockets may be scheduled for Wednesday and/or Thursday at the discretion of Judge Stephen Brown.
 9. Dependency dockets are suspended until April 15, 2020. The court will conduct shelter care hearings during the period of suspension. The court finds good cause for the suspension of the dependency dockets and the delays resulting from this suspension, and orders that all timelines for the timely disposition of dependency cases are stayed during this period of suspension. Motions of an emergent nature can be scheduled, if approved at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing date by Judge David Mistachkin.

1 10. Juvenile Criminal dockets are suspended until April 16, 2020, except for preliminary
2 appearances and motions for changes of plea, deferred disposition and pretrial
3 release. All fact-finding hearings scheduled between March 16 and April 17, 2020
4 are continued to April 23, 2020. The court finds good cause for the continuances
5 resulting from this order and finds that such continuances are required in the
6 administration of justice. Such continuances will not prejudice any respondent in the
7 presentation of his or her defense. Each case impacted will, in addition to this order,
8 be addressed on a case by case basis. The time periods of the continuances set forth
9 in this General Order are excluded periods for the purposes of computing time for
10 speedy hearing.

11 DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.

12 

13 DAVID L. EDWARDS
14 PRESIDING JUDGE