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GRAYS HARBOR CO.
KYM FOSTER
COUNTY CLERK

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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 2020-6

**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, General Order 2020-2 on March 16, 2020, General Order 2020-3 on March 19, 2020 and General Order 2020-5 on April 2, 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.

This order adopts and incorporates prior orders of this court, except as amended herein, and the Washington Supreme Court orders issued on March 18, 2020, April 13, 2020 and April 29, 2020.

All operations of this court, except as set forth in General Order No. 2020-5 were suspended on April 2, 2020. As stated by the Washington Supreme Court, many court facilities in Washington (including Grays Harbor County Superior Court) are ill-equipped to effectively comply with social distancing and other public health requirements, which cause in-person court appearances to jeopardize the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, judges, court staff and members of the public.

1 It has been determined by the Washington State Supreme Court and the Governor of the
2 State of Washington that it remains necessary to continue with strict observance of social
3 distancing measures and other public health safeguards until further notice.

4 The Grays Harbor County Superior Court and the Grays Harbor County Juvenile Court
5 shall be closed to the public, except for the limited circumstances specified in this order. The
6 closure of these courts does not apply to the Grays Harbor District Courts. The operations of the
7 Grays Harbor County Superior Court are suspended, except as set forth in this order.

8 1. Criminal cases:

- 9 a. All criminal jury trials are suspended until at least July 28, 2020. For all criminal
10 trials suspended under the terms of this order, September 1, 2020 shall be the new
11 commencement date for purposes of establishing time for trial.
- 12 b. The court will assign jury trial dates to pending cases when regular motion dockets
13 are resumed, which is anticipated to be the week of June 29, 2020.
- 14 c. Nonjury trials may be conducted by remote means beginning May 27, 2020. Any
15 cases set for nonjury trial between the date of this order and May 26, 2020, shall be
16 set for May 27, 2020.
- 17 d. All criminal matters, except for preliminary appearances and arraignments of in-
18 custody defendants, are continued until after June 8, 2020. All criminal matters
19 scheduled for hearing between the date of this order and June 26, 2020 are continued
20 to the motion docket for June 29, 2020 for assignment of new hearing dates.
- 21 e. Motions for pretrial release and/or reduction of bail, and other motions of an urgent
22 nature may be scheduled by contacting the Court Administrator.
- 23 f. Beginning May 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., the court shall conduct criminal motion
24 dockets by videoconferencing (on a daily basis, if necessary) for the purpose of
25 reviewing case status, entering omnibus orders and conducting hearings for
26 defendants who intend to enter pleas of guilty. The Court Administrator shall
determine the order of the docket schedules and notify defense counsel of their
respective docket assignments. As provided in section 12(c) of the Supreme Court
order dated April 29, 2020, defense counsel shall be responsible for providing notice
to defendants of new hearing dates and docket dates. Defendants are expected to
appear remotely (using Zoom). Any defendant who lacks access to a device that
supports Zoom may appear for the motion dockets in-person in Grays Harbor County
Superior Court, Department 2 courtroom, where access to Zoom will be available.

1 2. Civil Cases

- 2 a. All civil matters scheduled for hearing or trial between the date of this order and June
3 29, 2020 shall be stricken and counsel shall submit a new request for trial/ hearing
4 with the Court Administrator.
5 b. Motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled for hearing if approved, in advance, by
6 the presiding judge.
7 c. Parties may request evidentiary hearings or non-emergency motion hearings as set
8 forth in this court's memo to the Bar dated April 30, 2020.

9 3. Domestic/Family Law motion dockets:

- 10 a. All dockets are suspended until the week of June 29, 2020.
11 b. The court shall continue to conduct hearings on Monday mornings for motions for
12 restraining orders which address claims of abuse or health and safety, motions for
13 temporary parenting plans which address claims of abuse or health and safety of a
14 child or children, and other urgent motions, which must be approved in advance by
15 the presiding judge.
16 c. Parties may request evidentiary hearings or non-emergency motion hearings as set
17 forth in this court's memo to the Bar dated April 30, 2020.
18 d. All domestic/family law cases set for hearings or trials between the date of this order
19 and June 29, 2020 are stricken and counsel shall submit a new request for trial/
20 hearing with the Court Administrator.

21 4. Default Dissolution dockets are suspended until the week of June 29, 2020.

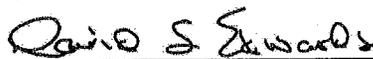
22 5. Paternity Dockets are suspended until the week of June 29, 2020.

23 6. Protection Docket – The court will conduct hearings regarding issuance of protection orders
24 on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the Department 3 courtroom.

25 7. Juvenile Criminal dockets are suspended until the week of June 29, 2020, except for
26 preliminary appearances and motions for changes of plea, deferred disposition, and pretrial
release. All fact-finding hearings are suspended until after June 29, 2020. The court finds
good cause for the continuances resulting from this order and finds that such continuances
are required in the administration of justice. Such continuances will not prejudice any
respondent in the presentation of his or her defense. Each case impacted will, in addition to
this order, be addressed on a case by case basis. The new commencement date for all cases
affected by this paragraph shall be September 1, 2020, for the purposes of computing time
for speedy hearing.

- 1 8. Dependency cases – hearings shall be scheduled and heard as directed by the Washington
2 Supreme Court in its Extended and Revised Order Re: Dependency and Termination Cases
3 dated April 30, 2020. The court expects to resume dependency dockets on July 1, 2020. Any
4 non-emergency matters set for hearing between the date of this order and June 30, 2020 shall
5 be place on the docket for July 1, 2020.
- 6 9. Any person wishing to apply for a protection order from the Superior Court may complete
7 and submit the necessary paperwork at the office of the Grays Harbor County Clerk. The
8 court shall continue to review petitions for protection orders and motions for restraining
9 orders which address claims of abuse or health and safety of a child or children, motions for
10 temporary parenting plans which address claims of abuse or health and safety of a child or
11 children. All temporary protection orders granted by the court shall be issued with permission
12 to serve by mail, or by publication, and shall be set for hearing during a time period between
13 21 and 24 days after issuance of the ex parte temporary order.
- 14 10. The courts and other offices occupying the courthouse shall strictly comply with the 6-foot
15 social distancing requirements and other health and safety measures set forth in the Stay
16 Home-Stay Healthy order of the Governor.
- 17 11. The Court Security personnel shall screen all persons entering the courthouse to determine if
18 such person has legitimate business to conduct in the courthouse as specified in this order.
19 Such persons shall also be screened regarding temperature and exposure to persons who
20 exhibit symptoms consisted with the coronavirus. Security Personnel shall have the authority
21 to deny any person access to the courthouse.

22 DATED this 4th day of May 2020.

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DAVID L. EDWARDS
PRESIDING JUDGE