

FILED

20 MAR 19 P1:13

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 2020-3

**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 and General Order 2020-2 on March 16, 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 16, 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.

Further, the National Center for Disease Control reported on March 18, 2020 that the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States had grown from 2,000 case on March 11, 2020 to 9,400 cases on March 18, 2020, including an increase of 2,300 cases during a period of 12 hours on March 18, 2020.

The Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court issued an order on March 18, 2020 which restricts the operations of the courts in this State and which limits the types of cases which can be heard in the courts between now and April 24, 2020. The Supreme Court order authorizes this court to adopt measures to protect health and safety that are more

1 restrictive than the Supreme Court order, including by extending the time frames contained in
2 the Supreme Court order.

3 This order adopts and incorporates the Supreme Court order and further restricts some
4 of the conditions set forth in that order, as set forth below. This court finds that good cause
5 exists to further suspend the operations of the court, as follows:

- 6 1. The Grays Harbor County Courthouse, the Grays Harbor County Juvenile Court and
7 the Grays Harbor County District Court shall be closed to the public, effective
8 immediately, except for the limited circumstances specified in this order.
- 9 2. Criminal motion docket:
 - 10 a. All criminal jury trials are suspended until after May 6, 2020. For all criminal
11 trials suspended under this provision, May 7, 2020 will be the new
12 commencement date under CrR 3.3.
 - 13 b. All out of custody criminal matter already pending shall be continued until
14 after May 6, 2020. Paragraph 5 of the Supreme Court order is hereby
15 incorporated herein, except that arraignments and preliminary appearances
16 on out of custody cases shall be deferred until a date 60 days after the filing
17 of the charges.
 - 18 c. All in custody criminal matters shall be continued until after May 6, 2020.
19 This order otherwise incorporates the language of paragraph 7 of the
20 Supreme Court order.
 - 21 d. The regular Monday dockets for the period between now through May 6,
22 2020 shall be limited to arraignments, changes of plea, sentencings and
23 motions for release and/or bail reduction; and
 - 24 e. Other motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled, but, must be approved
25 in advance by the presiding judge.
- 26 3. Civil motion docket;
 - a. All dockets are suspended until May 6, 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 May 6, 2020;
 - b. The court shall continue to conduct hearings on Monday mornings for
motions for restraining orders which address claims of abuse or health and
safety, motions for temporary parenting plans which address claims of abuse

1 or health and safety of a child or children, and other urgent motions, which
2 must be approved in advance by the presiding judge.

- 3 5. Default Dissolution dockets are suspended until May 6, 2020.
- 4 6. Paternity Dockets are suspended until May 6, 2020.
- 5 7. Protection Docket – No changes
- 6 8. Drug Court shall be conducted except it shall be limited to ten participants, who
7 attend without family members or friends. Additional drug court dockets may be
8 scheduled for Wednesday and/or Thursday at the discretion of Judge Stephen
9 Brown.
- 10 9. Dependency dockets are suspended until May 8, 2020. The court will conduct
11 shelter care hearings during the period of suspension. The court finds good cause
12 for the suspension of the dependency dockets and the delays resulting from this
13 suspension, and orders that all timelines for the timely disposition of dependency
14 cases are stayed during this period of suspension. Motions of an emergent nature
15 can be scheduled, if approved at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing date by
16 Judge David Mistachkin.
- 17 10. Juvenile Criminal dockets are suspended until May 9, 2020, except for preliminary
18 appearances and motions for changes of plea, deferred disposition and pretrial
19 release. All fact-finding hearings scheduled between March 16, 2020 and May 10,
20 2020 are continued to May 16, 2020. The court finds good cause for the
21 continuances resulting from this order and finds that such continuances are required
22 in the administration of justice. Such continuances will not prejudice any
23 respondent in the presentation of his or her defense. Each case impacted will, in
24 addition to this order, be addressed on a case by case basis. The new
25 commencement date for all cases affected by this paragraph shall be May 9, 2020,
26 for the purposes of computing time for speedy hearing.
11. Protection Orders: any person wishing to apply for a protection order from the
Superior Court may complete and submit the necessary paperwork at the office of
the Grays Harbor County Clerk between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
and 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday.
12. The courts and other offices occupying the courthouse shall diligently comply with
the 6-foot social distancing direction from the CDC and the CDC direction to limit
public gatherings to not more than 10 persons.
13. The Court Security personnel shall screen all persons entering the courthouse to
determine if such person has legitimate business to conduct in the courthouse as
specified in this order. Such persons shall also be screened regarding temperature

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and exposure to persons who exhibit symptoms consisted with the coronavirus. Security Personnel shall have the authority to deny any person access to the courthouse.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2020.



DAVID L. EDWARDS
PRESIDING JUDGE