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

8 IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY
9 RESPONSE TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC
10 HEALTH
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GENERAL ORDER 2020-5

**EMERGENCY ORDER
RE: PUBLIC HEALTH**

14 Pursuant to General Rule (GR) 21(a), the Presiding Judge of this court issued
15 General Order 2020-1 on March 12, 2020, General Order 2020-2 on March 16,
16 2020 and General Order 2020-3 on March 19, 2020 in response to the public
17 health emergency arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19), which was declared a
18 pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and which affects
the operations of the Grays Harbor County Superior Court.

19 The severity of the public health emergency has worsened exponentially
20 since March 19, 2020, causing several government bodies and elected officials to
21 implement additional measures to protect the public, including a statewide stay-
22 at-home order by Governor Inslee issued on March 23, 2020.

23 The National Center for Disease Control reported on March 18, 2020 that
24 the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States was 9,400. On
25 March 31, 2020 there were 163,539 confirmed cases and 2860 deaths. The latest
26 modeling predicts that the coronavirus will be spreading into more rural, less-
populated areas within the next few days. These models are predicting a best-

1 case scenario of 200,000 deaths. The models for Washington State predict a peak
2 in the number of confirmed cases will occur on April 19, 2020.

3 The National Center for Disease Control advises that the best protection
4 against becoming infected is the avoidance of contact with other people. The
5 safety, health and welfare of the court employees and other persons working
6 within the courthouse is of paramount importance to the court. This court is
7 directing its employees to stay in their homes for the next three weeks and to
8 avoid all unnecessary contact with other people. This court strongly urges
9 employees of other offices within the courthouse to do the same.

10 This order adopts and incorporates prior orders of this court, except as
11 amended herein, and the Supreme Court order issued on March 18, 2020.
12 Effective immediately and until further order of this court, all operations of the
13 court are suspended, except as set forth herein.

14 1. The Grays Harbor County Superior Court and the Grays Harbor County
15 Juvenile Court shall be closed to the public, except for the limited
16 circumstances specified in this order.

17 2. Criminal cases:

18 a. In-custody preliminary appearances shall be conducted daily, as
19 necessary, using video conferencing technology. All such hearings
20 shall be recorded by a court reporter and shall be attended by the
21 clerk of the court, or a deputy clerk, via videoconferencing.

22 b. Motions for pretrial release and/or reduction of bail, and other
23 motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled, but, must be
24 approved in advance by the presiding judge.

25 3. Domestic/Family Law motions:

26 a. The court shall continue to review petitions for protection orders
and motions for restraining orders which address claims of abuse
or health and safety of a child or children, motions for temporary
parenting plans which address claims of abuse or health and

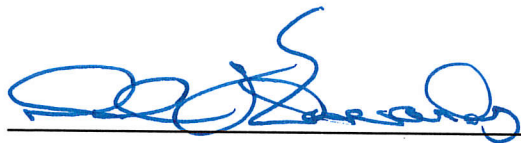
1 safety of a child or children. All temporary protection orders
2 granted by the court shall be issued with permission to serve by
3 mail, or by publication, and shall be set for hearing during a time
4 period between 21 and 24 days after issuance of the ex parte
temporary order.

5 b. Other motions of an urgent nature may be scheduled, but, must
6 be approved in advance by the presiding judge.

7 4. Shelter care hearings in dependency cases shall be conducted, as
8 necessary, and all parties, counsel and witnesses shall participate
9 through videoconferencing. Such hearings shall be scheduled by
contacting the court administrator or presiding judge.

10 5. Protection Orders: any person wishing to apply for a protection order
11 from the Superior Court may complete and submit the necessary
12 paperwork at the office of the Grays Harbor County Clerk between the
13 hours of 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Monday through Friday.

14 DATED this 2nd day of April, 2020.

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19 DAVID L. EDWARDS
20 PRESIDING JUDGE
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