

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE RESPONSE BY THE COURT TO PUBLIC ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19 )  
 ) NO. JS02-2020  
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 )

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has determined the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) has now reached worldwide pandemic levels; and

WHEREAS, people within Washington State and Jefferson County have been diagnosed with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 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;

WHEREAS, Washington Governor Jay Inslee has declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and local public health officials have declared that the COVID-19 virus will continue to spread; and

WHEREAS, the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in Washington, the severity of the risk posed to the public, the recommendations of Health Department, and the authority granted by Order No. 25700-B-602, the current situation demands immediate action by the Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2020, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

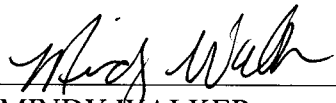
1. All District Court jury trials are cancelled through April 24, 2020.
2. All jury summons are suspended until April 27, 2020. Jury personnel/coordinators for this Court shall immediately call off jurors summoned.
3. For all pending cases in this Court, under CrRLJ 3.3, the Court is obligated to ensure compliance with applicable time for trial rules. This Court, on its own motion, concludes a

continuance in these criminal jury trials is required in the administration of justice; will not prejudice any defendant in the presentation of his or her defense, and the serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to continue criminal jury trials and hearings and is an unavoidable circumstance under CrRLJ 3.3. All criminal jury trials scheduled to begin March 16, 2020, thru April 24, 2020, are hereby and shall be continued to a status date set by the court.

4. The Judge will accept signed agreed orders of continuance off record for all criminal cases. Also, the court will allow appearances by phone by defendants or attorneys.
5. Based upon the foregoing, the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled hearing or trial date are excluded when calculating time for trial under CrRLJ 3.3.
6. All non-criminal jury trials with a trial date on or prior to April 24 2020, are and shall be continued to a new trial date on or after April 27, 2020, as determined by this Court after consultation with counsel and/or the parties in such cases.
7. Review hearings set to determine compliance with any **order issued to surrender weapons**, including orders issued in either criminal or civil cases, will continue as normally scheduled even if an underlying criminal case is being rescheduled to a later date.
8. **ARRAIGNMENTS:** Arraignments for driving with license suspended in the third or second degree, no valid operator's license, failure to transfer title, violations of fishing and forestry regulations, or combinations of those charges which are filed with the court, shall be continued until a date after April 24, 2020. A summons shall be issued to the defendant.
9. **PRE-TRIAL HEARINGS:** All pre-trial hearings set between March 16, 2020 and April 24, 2020 for charges of driving with license suspended in the third or second degree, no valid operator's license, failure to transfer title, violations of fishing and forestry regulations, or combinations of those charges shall be continued for a date to be set by the court. A summons shall be issued to the defendant.
10. **INFRACTIONS:** All currently scheduled in-person infraction hearings will be continued for 90 days. This court finds good cause pursuant to IRLJ 6.1. Anyone with a pending infraction will continue to have the option to submit written hearing request on line or by mail. Anyone who receives an infraction is still required to respond to the notice of infraction within fifteen (15) days for the date the notice is personally served or, if the notice is served by mail, within eighteen (18) days of the date the notice is mailed. Respondents can continue to respond by mail or by submitting a written hearings request online within the time frame required.

11. SMALL CLAIMS: All small claims mediation hearings and trails are continued to a date after April 24, 2020. Parties are encouraged to contact the court for the new date.
12. NAME CHANGE: All name change hearings are continued unless a written request to the judge is presented explaining the emergent need for a name change. Upon a judicial determination of an emergent need, the clerk will set a hearing which may be accomplished via a telephonic hearing.
13. CIVIL HEARINGS: Civil hearings may be noted and heard without oral argument; ex parte matters will continue to be processed.
14. PETITION FOR PROTECTION ORDERS: These hearings will proceed as currently scheduled-including without limitation, domestic violence, anti-harassment, sexual assault, stalking or any other type of order. New petitions for such orders will also be scheduled per the usual rules and practice of the Court.
15. PROBATION: The court is suspending all in-person check-ins. Defendants who are required to check in with probation in-person will now be required to check in by phone at 12:00p.m. on the day listed on their conditions of release or as directed by probation. Probation staff will be providing notice of this change. With the exception of DUI, Physical Control, Assault in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree and DV cases, all probation violations and motions to revoke shall be heard at date set by the court and a summons will issue. All scheduled compliance review hearings will be continued until a date after April 24, 2020.
16. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT: All hearings suspended. Hearings shall resume on April 28, 2020 at 10:30 unless further order of the court. Participants are to check in weekly with court staff by phone unless otherwise directed.
17. Litigants and attorneys who feel sick should not enter Jefferson County Courthouse. Anyone deemed by the Court or staff to exhibit illness symptoms may be ordered to leave the building.
18. This Order shall be reviewed prior to April 24, 2020, in light of the public health emergency as it may then exist.

DATE this 16 day of March, 2020.

  
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MINDY WALKER  
District Court Judge