

FILED

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IN SUPERIOR COURT  
JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK

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

IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
EMERGENCY ) )  
 ) NO. 2020-01  
 )

WHEREAS, The Chief Justice has issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State on March 4, 2020; 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, Whatcom County Superior Court by Administrative Order 20-2-00001-37 dated March 11, 2020, and Grays Harbor Superior Court by General Order 2020-1 dated March 12, 2020, have made findings regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and have limited or cancelled jury trials in their respective courts, and

WHEREAS, King County Superior Court by Emergency Order #3, No. 20-0-12050-5, dated March 13, 2020, has entered similar and more extensive findings, and has cancelled all Superior Court Jury trials thru April 24, 2020, and

WHEREAS, most recently Washington Governor Jay Inslee has or will today order that restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities will be shut down and that gatherings of over 50 participants will be prohibited unless previously announced criteria for public health and social distancing are met, and local public health officials have declared that the COVID-19 virus will continue to spread, and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court cannot accommodate such public health and social distancing criteria, will have a reduced ability to obtain an adequate number of

jurors for trials, and wants to take reasonably necessary steps to assist in stopping or slowing the spread of COVID-19,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court adopts by references the findings and conclusions set forth in the foregoing orders and resolutions, now therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1 All jury summons are suspended until April 27, 2020. Jury personnel/coordinators for this Court shall immediately call off jurors summoned.

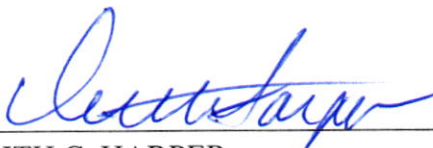
2 For all pending cases in this Court, under CrR 3.3, the Court is obligated to ensure compliance with applicable time for trial rules. This Court, on its own motion, concludes a continuance in these criminal jury trials is required in the administration of justice; will not prejudice any defendant in the presentation of his or her defense, and the serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to continue criminal jury trials and is an unavoidable circumstance under CrR 3.3. All criminal jury trials scheduled to begin March 16, 2020, thru April 24, 2020, are hereby and shall be continued to April 27, 2020. However, Defendants and counsel for the parties shall appear before the Court on the day of trial to reset trial dates unless the Court has previously entered an order signed by Defendant and both attorneys setting a new trial date.

3 Based upon the foregoing, the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date are excluded when calculating time for trial under CrR 3.3.

4 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 May 4, 2020, as determined by this Court after consultation with counsel and/or the parties in such cases.

5 This Order shall be reviewed prior to April 24, 2020, in light of the public health emergency as it may then exist.

DATED this 16 day of March, 2020.

  
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KEITH C. HARPER  
Superior Court Judge