

FILED

2020 MAR 18 AM 10:54

IN THE 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
EMERGENCY

) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

)

)

)

NO. 2020-02

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, Governor Inslee has declared a state of emergency in the State of Washington, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a federal state of emergency

WHEREAS, most recently Washington Governor Jay Inslee has ordered that restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities will be shut down and that gatherings of over 50 participants will be prohibited and gatherings of less than 50 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 Board of Commissioners declared a state of emergency in Jefferson County on March 16, 2020, and the Board also passed a motion on March 17, 2020, to close the County Courthouse to the public, with limited exceptions for the courts and some other functions, to be effective as soon as practicable, and

WHEREAS, this Court has previously issued Administrative Order 2020-01 on March 16, 2020, concerning the Public Health Emergency and incorporates herein by reference the findings and conclusions made by this Court in that Order.

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court wants to take reasonably necessary steps to assist in stopping or slowing the spread of COVID-19, and

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020, on a temporary basis until further order of this Court, the following court dockets are cancelled or modified:

The Wednesday afternoon 1:00 PM Adoption docket is cancelled. Adoption hearings shall be specially set as directed by the Court. Parties shall limit the number of observers present for adoptions.

Thursday morning Drug Court staffing meetings and provider reports shall be done either by email, telephonically or a combination of both, starting March 26, 2020, Drug Court shall be cancelled on March 19, 2020, and shall only be held bi-weekly, starting March 26, 2020.

The Thursday morning FTC staffing meetings and FTC court sessions are cancelled.

The Thursday afternoon Truancy court docket is cancelled.

In-custody criminal defendants appearing for the Friday morning 8:30 AM criminal docket shall all appear by video from the jail, except for those defendants entering guilty pleas and/or appearing to be sentenced.

In lieu of having criminal Defendants personally sign documents as customarily required (except protection orders, pleas and sentencing documents), attorneys may sign on behalf of the intended Defendant, which shall indicate that the attorney has notified the Defendant of the contents of the order.

All parties and attorneys on the Friday criminal, civil or domestic dockets are encouraged, whenever practicable, to appear remotely by telephone. Attorneys and their clients should appear from the same site.

All Juvenile offender fact-finding hearings are cancelled through April 24, 2020. The Court, based on prior findings referenced above, suspends the juvenile court rules applicable to time for hearing and time for arraignment until further notice.

All non-trial criminal matters will continue to be heard by the court. Defendants must appear in person unless they have signed a waiver of their in-person appearance and provided the waiver to their attorney for filing with the court. Defendants may then appear by telephone.

All civil trials set for trial between this date and May 15, 2020, are continued. The parties are responsible to have a new court date set. The court may conduct some bench trials prior to May 15, 2020, upon specific motion and a showing of necessity.

All settlement conferences shall be conducted by telephone.

Involuntary Treatment Act hearings shall be held pursuant to current protocols, except that parties may and are encouraged to appear by telephone and such hearings shall only be held in a room or facility that permits adequate social distancing.

In Dependency cases, Shelter Care Hearings shall be held as required by RCW 13.34. Parties are encouraged to attend by telephone. Fact-finding hearings shall be held by phone, in person or shall be continued beyond 75 days as determined by the Court. Reviews, permanency planning hearings, motions and other hearings will, to the greatest extent possible, be conducted by telephone to the court.

CHINS and At Risk Youth hearings shall be held pursuant to current protocols, but all parties shall appear by telephone if practicable.

Friday afternoon child support review hearings shall be heard as noted or re-noted by the Prosecuting Attorney's office. Telephonic court appearances shall be encouraged.

In all matters parties are strongly encouraged to enter orders by agreed order prepared and submitted to the Court in advance off-record to minimize the number of people appearing in the courtroom. In addition, parties are strongly encouraged to limit motions when possible and to file only motions regarding emergent issues.

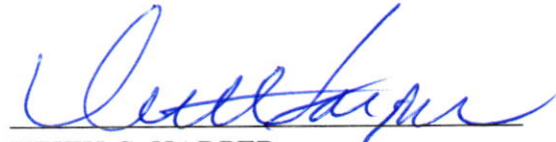
The Court finds good cause to extend the time for full hearings on newly-filed temporary protection orders for a period of up to 28 days. The Court shall continue to review ex parte any petitions to determine whether a temporary order is warranted.

Whenever practicable, documents should be filed with the Court by mail, fax or online. Filing at the Courthouse will be done via a drop box to be located in the back parking lot, or in open court. The Superior Court Clerk and Superior Court Administrator should be contacted by phone or email for details.

On all cases where persons appear by telephone, contact telephone numbers shall be provided to the Superior Court Administrator by email well ahead of the applicable hearing. The Court Administrator will reply with the necessary conference call number and access code for the hearing.

The provisions of this Order may be waived or altered by the Court as determined in the interest of the efficient administration of justice on a case-by-case basis. This Order shall be reviewed prior to April 24, 2020, in light of the public health emergency as it may then exist.

DATED March 18, 2020.



KEITH C. HARPER

Superior Court Judge