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BLACK DIAMOND MUNICIPAL COURT
KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
BY COVID-19 AND RELATED
CORONOVIRUS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 20-02

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, this Administrative Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Western Washington, which has been home to the first reported domestic case of the disease and some of the first significant community impacts from school and business closures. As of the date of this Order, there have been over 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in King County and over 70 in the State of Washington. Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like

1 symptoms, for others it can pose a serious risk, and ten people in Washington have
2 died.

3 In February of this year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)
4 issued “Interim Guidance” recommending that all employers consider how best to
5 decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from the state and
6 local health officials. On March 5, 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County issued a
7 recommendation that individuals at a higher risk (e.g. those over 60 years of age, those
8 with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant) stay at home and away from
9 large groups of people. Employers were also advised to maximize telecommuting and
10 to “feasibly avoid bringing large groups of people together.”
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13 Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the
14 area and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the above public health
15 recommendations from local public health authorities,
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17 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that effective Friday, March 13, 2020:

- 18 1) All civil infraction, and criminal matters scheduled before this court, including jury
19 trials are CONTINUED pending further order of the Court;
- 20 2) With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court’s reduced ability to obtain an
21 adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health
22 recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in
23 the courtroom, ***the time period of the continuances implemented by the***
24 ***Administrative Order will be excluded under CrRLJ 3.3 Time for Trial Rule,***
25 ***as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the***
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