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**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF KENT  
KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN RE MATTER OF EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO  
PUBLIC HEALTH.

) EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE  
) ORDER NO. 2020-03  
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**THIS MATTER COMES BEFORE THE COURT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF KENT AND KING COUNTY:**

1. On 02/29/20, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).
2. On 03/04/20, Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington Courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency.
3. On 03/11/20, the Governor imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties due to the danger of continued spread of the virus and the increasing danger the virus presents to the health care system in the region. The Health Officer for Public Health-Seattle and King County issued similar orders.
4. All divisions of the King County District Court and other area Municipal Courts have implemented orders and procedures limiting court operations in effort to further minimize the risk and danger associated with the spread of COVID-19 and the Kent Municipal Court followed suit with an order limiting procedure on 03/13/20.

5. On 03/16/20, the City Kent closed all public facilities until further notice necessitating further order from this Court.
6. On March 17, 2020, the Kent Municipal Court closed to the public and began limited operations outlined in Emergency Administrative Order 2020-02. Since that time, this Court has continued to abide by the directives of the Chief Justice as outlined in the orders from March 18, 2020, corrected order from March 20, 2020, the revised and extended order regarding court operations from April 13, 2020, as well as the second revised and extended order.

Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, with the exceptions set forth below, this Court ordered all currently scheduled court hearings postponed and rescheduled to a future date to be determined. In accordance with the City's directive, and in the interest of the public health and safety, the Court has been closed to the public until further notice. This action was taken upon review of the public health orders and the necessity of closing the Court. This Court has specifically found and continues to find that the public health concerns outweigh the right to public access under Boneclub during this emergency for any hearings conducted.

Exceptions to date have included:

- a) By mail traffic infraction cases;
- b) All in-custody matters;
- c) Any hearing set upon judicial determination of an emergent need.

For all cases currently pending and for new cases filed during the pendency of this order, the delay/continuance of cases shall be subject to this Court's standing order suspending court rules for speedy trial purposes, which includes but not limited to, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule. Per the Governor's order, the operation of RCW 9A.04.080 (1)(b)-(k) and RCW 10.73 will resume on May 14, 2020. **It is currently this Court's intention to reopen on June 2, 2020.** On all out of custody criminal matters, the commencement date for speedy trial calculation will begin

when the defendant physically or remotely appears before the Court. The commencement date for all in custody matters will be **June 2, 2020**. Civil infraction matters, excluding Code Enforcement, will be deprioritized until further notice. Timing requirements per IRLJ 2.6 (a)(1) will commence upon the defendant's physical or remote appearance before the Court.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that notices for future dates for all cases delayed by this order will be mailed to the parties via U.S. mail. Any party needing to update their mailing address should contact the court at (253) 856-5730.

The courthouse will remain closed to the public until **June 2, 2020**. The public will be required to comply with all directives regarding social distancing and use of personal protective equipment upon entry to the courthouse. The public is encouraged to contact the Court by phone or email with questions. The public health and safety exceptions to the right to public access under Boneclub will remain in effect until the need for social distancing requirements lessens. The Court will revisit this issue frequently during the first 60 days of reopening and make adjustments when it is deemed safe to do so.

This order may be modified as circumstances change.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
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Michael Frans  
Presiding Judge  
Kent Municipal Court