

IN THE KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE CITIES OF AUBURN, BELLEVUE, BURIEN,
COVINGTON, DUVALL, KENMORE, REDMOND, SHORELINE, AND VASHON ISLAND

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY)	EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
HEALTH. _____)	
)	NO. 1-2020

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in King County:

1. On February 29, 2020, Washington State 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 March 4, 2020 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 issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State; and
3. On March 11, 2020 the Governor imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within King, Snohomish, and Pierce County 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;
4. On March 11, 2020, Dr. Jeff Duchin, Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle & King County, issued a parallel local Health Officer Order for King County to prohibit gatherings of fewer than 250 people unless measures are taken by event organizers to minimize risk;
5. The King County District Court’s 25 courts rooms are all high volume courtrooms and collectively handle more than 100,000 matters each year for both the County as well as the cities that contract with the Court for District Court services, it is therefore necessary for the King County District Court to make modifications to court operations to allow for the orderly transition to a system of work that will allow for implementation of systems and procedures that will meet the directive of the County Public Health Order;

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that effective Friday March 13, 2020, with the following exceptions, all currently scheduled Court hearings will be postponed and rescheduled by the court clerks to another date.

- (a) Traffic Infractions cases with Mitigation or Contested hearing ONLY IF the hearing is scheduled for an online hearing or hearing with only written materials submitted without the need for any party to appear in court. All infraction hearings that require the appearance of any party will be rescheduled to a later date;
- (b) Community Court cases scheduled for hearing on Monday March 16, 2020 in the Burien Community Center;
- (c) Community Court cases scheduled for hearing on Tuesday March 17, 2020 in the City of Shoreline;
- (d) Community Court cases scheduled for hearing on Wednesday March 18, 2020 at the Redmond Courthouse;
- (e) Criminal cases where a defendant is detained in custody on that particular criminal case will proceed as currently scheduled. New criminal cases where a defendant is detained on that particular case will continue to be scheduled for hearing per the usual rules and practice of the court;
- (f) Petitions for Protection Order 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;
- (g) Review Hearings set to determine compliance with any **order issued to surrender weapons**, including orders issued in either criminal and civil cases, will continue as normally scheduled even if an underlying criminal case is being rescheduled to a later date;
- (h) Name Change Petitions may be scheduled if a written request to the judge is presented explaining the emergent need for the name change. Upon a judicial determination of an emergent need, the Court clerk will set a hearing which may be accomplished via a telephonic or video hearing;
- (i) Matters relating to the impound of motor vehicle(s) or animals may be scheduled if a written request to the judge is presented explaining the emergent need for a hearing. Upon a judicial determination of an emergent need the Court clerk will set a hearing which may be accomplished via a telephonic or video hearing;
- (j) Civil Motions may be noted and heard without oral argument; ex parte matters will continue to be processed.

For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, the delay/continuance shall constitute an excluded period for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule.

It is Further Ordered that all hearings delayed by this order notices will be mailed to the parties of the next scheduled hearing date via, US mail. Any party needing to update their mailing address should contact the court clerk at (206) 205-9200.

For all hearings not continued by effect of this rule, telephonic and video hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible in order to encourage social distancing as recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and local public health officials.

All courthouse locations will remain open; however, the public is encouraged to contact the court via telephone or email.

This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

DATED this 12th day of March, 2020.

/s/ Donna Tucker
Presiding Judge