

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY	)	EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC	)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
HEALTH.	)	
	)	NO. 3-2020

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;

6. On March 12, 2020, the King County District Court ordered a postponement and rescheduling of most court functions effective March 13, 2020 with limited exceptions.
7. Effective March 16, 2020, the Governor and King County Executive Dow Constantine ordered that all gatherings with over 50 participants are prohibited until further notice and that all gatherings under 50 participants are prohibited until further notice unless certain criteria for hygiene and social distancing are met.
8. On March 18, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court issued Order No. 25700-B-606 that further authorized and encouraged the reduction of Court Operations.

Therefore, it is hereby Ordered that:

- A. On March 20, 2020, King County District Court will have limited hours of operation to address previously scheduled emergency matters at the Seattle (516 Third Ave Rm E327) and Maleng Regional Justice Facility in Kent (401 4th Avenue N) locations only. Hearings scheduled in Shoreline, Redmond, and Bellevue will be heard at the Seattle location at 1:30 p.m. Any litigants experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms should remain home and can call the court to reschedule your hearing at (206) 205-9200.
- B. On March 20, 2020, King County District Court will hear in-custody criminal matters where charges were brought by the State of Washington at the King County Correctional Facility (Seattle Jail) and Maleng Regional Justice Center courtroom GB only.
- C. On March 20, 2020, SCORE in-custody matters will be heard in the following locations:
  - a. City of Shoreline and Kenmore matters at the Shoreline Courthouse,
  - b. City of Redmond matters at Northeast District Court,
  - c. City of Bellevue at the Bellevue Courthouse
  - d. City of Auburn, Burien and Covington matters at the Auburn Courthouse.

**Note:** All three courthouse locations will be closed to the general public. Only attorneys and court staff will be allowed to enter. See the attached Order of Closure to the Public. All defendants will appear at their hearings via video conference only. No defendants will be transported to court.

D. On March 21, 2020, in-custody matters will be heard at the Seattle Jail per normal Saturday/Holiday calendar procedures for all defendants.

E. An additional Order will issue prior to Monday March 23, 2020 to address continued in- custody and emergency operations.

F. All new petitions for Domestic Violence Protection orders and Sexual Assault Protection Orders should be filed in Superior Court. Due to staffing and judicial limitations, King County District Court will not accept these types of Orders until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court.

G. New Petitions for Anti-Harassment and non-domestic related Stalking Orders are suspended until the King County District Court can implement appropriate procedures consistent with the March 18, 2020 Washington Supreme Court Order and public health guidelines.

H. Essential Criminal Complaints, Agreed Criminal Motions, time sensitive Civil Summons and Complaints where the statute of limitations will expire within 90 days, Motions for Extension of Judgment, and all other Emergency Motions of a time sensitive nature related to Criminal or Civil Matters, including vehicle impounds where the vehicle is still in impound, and animal or property seizure hearings will be accepted and reviewed via email. All such filings should be emailed to [KCDCCourtFilings@Kingcounty.gov](mailto:KCDCCourtFilings@Kingcounty.gov). Filings sent to other email addresses may not get reviewed. Civil matters requiring a filing fee will be accepted for review without payment. The party will be required to pay the appropriate filing fee if the matter is accepted for processing. All required paperwork must be filed with requested Motions and Orders. New Civil Complaints and Motions for Extension of Judgment must set forth the statute of limitations expiration (Complaints) and include all other required documents in order to be accepted. All filings will be returned if not in compliance. All matters granted a hearing will be heard by telephone or video unless unavailable.

I. The King County District Court phone line will remain open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m until further Order of the Court.

J. **SEARCH WARRANTS:** King County District Court will continue its After Hours Search Warrant procedures. Law enforcement may call the court at 206-205-9200, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30, for judicial review of search

warrants. Law Enforcement shall file search warrant returns at the following email address: [KCDCSearchWarrants@kingcounty.gov](mailto:KCDCSearchWarrants@kingcounty.gov) through April 24, 2020 or further Order of the Court.

**K. PROBATION AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING:** District Court is suspending all probation and compliance monitoring on all matters until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court. Any supervision/jurisdictional time will be tolled during this suspension. Defendants with scheduled probation appointments prior to that time will be rescheduled and new notice will be mailed.

**L. INFRACTIONS:** King County District Court will continue to accept all on-line Law Enforcement filings of Infractions. The King County District Court will continue to process Contested and Mitigation matters filed on-line or by mail as staffing allows. All in person hearings will be scheduled for a future date and notice will be mailed.

**M. All King County District Court Community Court operations are closed until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court. All hearings scheduled from March 17, 2020 through April 24, 2020 will be rescheduled and notice will be mailed.**

**N. CIVIL and e-filing:** Effective immediately, King County District Court's on-line e-filing portal will be closed and the King County District Court's mandatory e-filing rule is suspended until April 27, 2020 or until further Order of the Court. Those matters previously filed will be processed as staff availability allows. For filing of time-sensitive matters please refer to paragraph H.

Consistent with the Washington Supreme Court's order, 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, all delays/continuances made under Emergency Administrative Order 1 dated March 12, 2020 (1-2020), Emergency Administrative Order 2 dated March 16, 2020 (2-2020) and this order (3-2020) are made for good cause in light of this ongoing health crisis and shall be excluded periods 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. The Court finds that COVID - 19 is a serious danger to the public at large and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance beyond the control of the Court and the parties that appear before the court.

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

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 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Acting Presiding Judge