

MAR 16 2020

FILED

IN THE LOWER DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KITTITAS

IN THE MATTER OF) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO A)
THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH) NO. 2020-01

WHEREAS, 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); and

WHEREAS, 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 public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners has declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Lower District Court for the County of Kittitas is a high volume courtroom with cases involving parties from virtually every part of Washington State, it is therefore necessary for the Lower 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 parties' and community's needs during this public health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1) Deadlines imposed by the following rules are suspended until further notice: CrRLJ 3.3 and 4.1, IRLJ 2.2 and 2.6,
- 2) All hearings, civil and criminal, that are currently scheduled will remain on the calendar (except for criminal jury trials, see item 3 below). However, the court will grant any request for continuance regardless of whether it is agreed or not and reset hearings at a date to be determined by the court. Requests for continuance may be done in writing or over the phone, and may be made by attorneys or parties themselves, regardless of whether they are pro se or represented.
- 3) All criminal jury trials scheduled for March and April will be cancelled and rescheduled at a date to be determined by the court. Prospective jurors who have received jury summons may disregard their summons for March and April.
- 4) Infraction hearings that are not rescheduled will only be conducted electronically using the E-portal on the court's website or in actual writing delivered in person or by mail via U.S. Postal Service and may be received through end of business on the date of the set hearing. Infraction hearings for which the defense has served an officer with a subpoena to appear or for which a demand for speed measuring device expert has been served pursuant to LIR 6.6(e) will be rescheduled at a date to be determined by the court.
- 5) Parties and their attorneys should not enter the Lower Kittitas County District courtroom until their cases are ready to be called on the record and are expected as much as possible to adhere to six-foot social distancing from court staff as well as other parties and attorneys, both in the courtroom and while in the Kittitas County Courthouse building. Any party or attorney who is deemed by the Court, court staff or courthouse security to be exhibiting illness symptoms may be ordered to leave the courtroom and/or building.
- 6) The above takes effect 3/17/2020 and remains in place until further notice.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.



Presiding Judge
Paul R. Sander
Lower Kittitas County District Court