

SKAMANIA COUNTY
FILED
JUL 29 2020
GRACE D. CROSS
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

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6 SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
7 IN AND FOR KLICKITAT/SKAMANIA COUNTY

8 IN RE THE KLICKITAT/SKAMANIA
9 COUNTY SUPERIOR AND THE
10 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE NOVEL
11 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Case No.: 20-2-00003-30

FOURTH REVISED AND EXTENDED
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER

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15 WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of
16 emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington;
17 and on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the
18 COVID-19 outbreak across the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, the Centers for Disease Control and
20 Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health have recommended
21 increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people,
22 and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces; and

23 WHEREAS, consistent with these recommendations, Governor Inslee issued and
24 extended a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order directing non-essential businesses to
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1 close, banning public gatherings, and requiring Washingtonians to stay home except to
2 pursue essential activities; and

3 WHEREAS, on May 31, 2020, Governor Inslee issued his Safe Start
4 proclamation allowing a phased reopening process for counties while requiring that
5 counties take necessary steps to ensure public safety as they progress through the
6 stages of reopening; and

7 WHEREAS, many court facilities in Washington are ill-equipped to effectively
8 comply with social distancing and other public health requirements and therefore
9 continued in-person court appearances jeopardize the health and safety of litigants,
10 attorneys, judges, court staff, and members of the public; and

11 WHEREAS, pursuant to this Court's prior orders, the stakeholders in the justice
12 system have taken important steps to protect public health while ensuring continued
13 access to justice and essential court services, including by strictly observing social
14 distancing measures, holding proceedings remotely, suspending many in-building
15 operations, and promulgating emergency rules as necessary; and

16 WHEREAS, the coordinated response from our courts and other stakeholders in
17 the court and justice system is necessary to prevent the further spread of COVID-19
18 and those responses must be continued beyond the timeframes in this Court's prior
19 orders to allow the courts to operate effectively and maintain effective and equitable
20 access to justice; and

21 WHEREAS given the significant number of identified and projected COVID-19
22 cases in Washington State, the severity of the risk posed to the public, court personnel
23 and litigants, and the child care needs of potential jurors, witnesses, and other parties,
24 and based upon the consistent and urgent advice of all public health experts that use of
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1 facial coverings and proactive “social distancing” and limiting public gatherings is
2 essential to address the emergent healthcare concerns brought on by the COVID-19
3 outbreak; and

4 WHEREAS, on July 24, 2020, Governor Inslee instituted additional restrictions
5 regarding use of facemasks, and limitations on gatherings related to businesses.

6 Governor Inslee further indicated that further restrictions could be forthcoming due to
7 the increase in COVID-19 cases occurring in Washington State; and

8 WHEREAS, as of July 27, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health
9 shows that Klickitat County has had 99 cases, 9 hospitalizations and 3 deaths and
10 Skamania County has had 47 cases, 5 hospitalization and 1 death, which shows a
11 significant increase over the past 30 days; and

12 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Governor Insee indefinitely paused reopenings for
13 all counties under the “Safe Start – Stay Healthy” County by County Phased Reopening
14 proclamation. Governor Inslee has threatened additional rollbacks and potentially
15 issuing another stay at home order if the number of cases continue to rise; and

16 WHEREAS the Klickitat County Commissioners have closed the Klickitat County
17 Courthouse to the public due to COVID-19 concerns, which is still in effect. Alternative
18 arrangements have been made to allow public access to filing with the Clerk’s Office
19 and to allow public access to the courtroom on designated court days, including use of
20 video and/or telephonic appearances and escorted appearances into the courthouse via
21 court personnel; and

22 WHEREAS as limited options exist within Klickitat and Skamania County exist to
23 safely gather large groups of potential jurors to allow for proper social distancing; and
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1 WHEREAS the courtrooms, jury rooms and other areas of the courthouse in
2 Klickitat and Skamania County are currently being remodeled and updated to insure
3 safety for all persons that come into the courtroom, jury room and other areas of the
4 courthouse, including the purchasing and acquisition of additional safety equipment:

5 It is hereby ORDERED, pursuant to the authority of Washington State Supreme
6 Court Orders related to court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and the
7 authority as the Presiding Judge of both the Klickitat County and Skamania County
8 Superior Courts, as follows:

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10 GENERAL ORDERS:

11 1. The previously issued Third Revised and Extended Emergency Order entered
12 on June 24, 2020 shall remain in full force and effect other than the changes
13 related to the trial dates that are addressed in this order.

14 CRIMINAL CASES:

15 1. A. Klickitat County Superior Court. All jury trials in Klickitat County
16 Superior Court are suspended until at least September 23, 2020.

17 B. Skamania County Superior Court. All jury trials in Skamania County
18 Superior Court are suspended until at least September 14, 2020.

19 2. A. Klickitat County Superior Court. Jury trials scheduled in Klickitat
20 County Superior Court for August 19, 2020 and September 9, 2020 shall be
21 continued until September 23, 2020. Jury trials rescheduled for September 23,
22 2020 will be set for a status conference hearing on September 8, 2020 at 10:00
23 AM, final review hearing on September 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM and jury trial
24 scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 8:15 AM.
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