

**DISTRICT COURTS OF WASHINGTON
FOR COUNTY OF KLICKITAT**

No. 2020-004

**IN RE THE KLICKITAT COUNTY DISTRICT COURT AND
THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19).**

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Statewide Order No.25700-B-607 on March 18, 2020, and then amended that order on March 20, 2020, in an effort to assist Washington's court system in addressing the rapidly evolving public health emergency presented by the novel coronavirus (Covid 19);

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home - Stay Healthy" ordering the statewide closure of non-essential services and businesses to further address this public health emergency;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proclamation lists state courts as part of Washington's essential public workforce "consistent with direction from the Washington State Chief Justice."

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Inslee extended his "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" proclamation through May 4, 2020.

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens revised and extended the prior Supreme Court orders providing additional direction to the Courts of Washington State to address the emergency created by the COVID-19 outbreak, and acknowledged that the coordinated response from Washington courts to this health emergency needed to be extended beyond the prior timeframes of the Court's earlier orders.

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, Klickitat County Superior Court Judge, Randall Krog, issued a revised Superior Court Administrative Order extending the provisions of the prior emergency order through May 25, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The previously issued District Court Emergency Administrative Orders (2020-001,002 and 003) are hereby extended through May 25, 2020.
2. During the pendency of these extended administrative orders, the District Court staffs will be available via telephone, email or fax from Monday through Friday. The public is also encouraged to visit the courts' websites to pay fines, address infraction matters and complete other court business. The public may also leave telephone messages for court staff that will be returned at the earliest opportunity.
3. The District Courts will continue to issue civil protection orders as appropriate, and the public may request these orders via the mailboxes located at East and West District court buildings. The courts will only schedule in-person hearings on these matters, if necessary, after May 25, 2020. If in the Court's perspective a civil protection order hearing must take place prior to this date, the hearing will be conducted by telephone. Any granted orders may be served on the defendant/respondent via U.S. Mail.

4. All criminal jury trials are suspended until after May 25, 2020.
5. Due to the reduced ability to obtain an adequate cross section of attentive jurors, the state limitations on the size of gatherings of people, the requirements of social distancing of at least 6 feet, limitations on vulnerable adults avoiding public spaces, and the effect of the public health recommendations on the likely availability of witnesses, court personnel, and trial counsel to be effectively present in the courtroom, the time period of continuances by this Emergency Order will be excluded in computing time for trial pursuant to CrRLJ 3.3 and related local court rules. The court further finds that the ends of justice served by continuing these cases outweighs the defendant's right to a speedy trial. The court further finds that any delays for time for trial are result of unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances and, therefore, are excluded from computing time for trial by CrRLJ 3.3. Furthermore, the court suspends CrRLJ 3.3 regarding time for trial and CrRLJ 3.4 and related local court rules requiring the presence of the defendant, effective through May 25, 2020.
6. All other civil and criminal hearings shall be continued through May 25, 2020, unless they present emergency situations. If an emergency hearing is required, the parties shall contact the court administrator to request a hearing and to find an appropriate date and time for hearing. Other hearings may be scheduled as needed upon agreement of the parties and approval from the court administrator. Where possible, the court will endeavor to conduct these hearings telephonically. If that is not possible, efforts will be made to engage in social distancing of a minimum of six feet between participants in the proceeding.
7. Criminal out-of-custody arraignments on cases filed between March 16, 2020 and May 25, 2020 shall be deferred until a date after May 25, 2020. Good cause exists under CrRLJ 4.1 to extend the arraignment dates. The new arraignment date shall be considered the "initial commencement date" for purposes of establishing the time for trial under CrRLJ 3.3. In-custody arraignments will proceed via video conference or telephonically.
8. Civil traffic infraction matters will be conducted by telephone to the greatest extent practicable commencing May 4, 2020. In the event, participants wish to participate in person in these proceedings, the matters will be continued to date after May 25, 2020.
9. Law enforcement officials that issue citations during this time frame should schedule defendants to appear in court for preliminary appearances after May 25, 2020.
10. Any court rules which are inconsistent with the provisions of Administrative Orders 2020-001, 2020-002, 2020-003 and this order are suspended while the orders remain in effect. Unless specifically modified or amended herein, the aforementioned orders remain in full force and effect in accordance with their terms and provisions. This order may be amended, extended or withdrawn as warranted to address the on-going public health emergency.

Dated this 16 day of April, 2020.



Presiding District Court Judge