

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

No. 2020-001

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

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER**

This administrative order is issued as a response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Covid-19 virus in Washington State. In response to the spread of this virus on a local, state and national level, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 on March 4, 2020, granting emergency authority to the presiding judges of all Washington courts to “adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current public health emergency.” Given the significant risk posed by this unprecedented health emergency, the courts must take immediate and decisive action to adjust procedures so as to limit any negative contribution to an already overburdened health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that effective immediately and until further order of this Court.

1. All criminal jury trials scheduled for the month of March will be continued to the month of April to be set by the Court administrators.

2. In reliance on the aforementioned Supreme Court order, all court rules, including without limitation, CrRLJ 3.3 and 4.1, are suspended until further order of the Court.

3. Bench warrants for failure to appear on a criminal case will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in light of the current emergency situation.

4. The following civil matters are all continued.

a. Infraction hearings (both contested and mitigation). To effectuate these continuances, IRLJ 2.6 (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) shall be suspended. The Court will continue to accept written statements submitted by email and mail pursuant to local court rule.

b. Small claims trials.

c. Name change hearings.

d. Full order hearings on civil protection orders. The Court will extend in chambers any temporary orders in effect at the time of the currently scheduled full order hearing. The extended temporary order must be served on the respondent. To effectuate these continuances, the maximum length of a temporary order issued pursuant to RCW 10.14.080; 7.92.120; and 26.50.070 shall be suspended. These full protection order hearings shall be continued approximately 28 days to a date determined by the court clerk.

5. The following criminal matters are all continued.

a. Jury trials scheduled in West District Court for trial on March 17, 2020, to the next available scheduled jury trial date in April.

b. Criminal matters scheduled for the Courts' regular criminal dockets may be continued in the coming weeks to reduce the size of any particular docket calendar in order that the courtroom is not overly crowded and appropriate "social distancing" practices can be enforced. Attorneys are encouraged to coordinate with opposing counsel to minimize the need for defendants to personally appear for certain status and motion hearings when the defendants are in contact with defense counsel and reside locally.

6. Litigants and attorneys who enter the District Court courtrooms are expected, as much as is practicable, to adhere to six-foot social distancing from court staff as well as other litigants.

7. Litigants and attorneys who feel sick and/or have a fever should not enter the District Court courtrooms. Anyone deemed by the Court or staff to be exhibiting illness symptoms may be ordered to leave the building.

8. Where necessary for the health and safety of the public, litigants, court staff and others, the court will accommodate telephonic and video appearances for criminal matters where appropriate and allowed under local court rule and state law.

9. This emergency order covers all activities of Klickitat County District Courts while they remain open. Notwithstanding the fact that the Courts will remain open, the public is encouraged to contact the Courts, whenever possible, via telephone or email. This order may be modified consistent with the Courts' continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

Dated this 16 day of March, 2020.



Presiding District Court Judge