

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF CENTRALIA

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH)	
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)	GR 21

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in the City of Centralia:

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 corona virus (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 the trial courts in Washington State;
3. On March 11, 2020 Governor Inslee imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within certain counties due to the danger of the continued spread of the virus and the increasing danger the virus presents to the health care system in the state;
4. On March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in the state until at least April 24, 2020;
5. On March 13, 2020, this Court executed an Administrative order No. 2020-01 adopting, modifying and suspending Court rules and procedures in response to the public health emergency.

6. On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered the closure of all restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities until further notice. Governor Inslee also prohibited all gatherings with over 50 participants and all gatherings under 50 participants are prohibited unless previously announced criteria for public health and social distancing are met;
7. Centralia Municipal Court located within Centralia City Hall is a high volume area. It is therefore necessary for the Centralia Municipal 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 limit the potential spread of the virus and provide for the safety of staff, litigants, attorneys, and the general public.
8. On April 29, 2020 The Supreme Court Of Washington, Chief Justice Stephens issued a Second Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations No. 25700-B-618.
9. On May 28, 2020 The Supreme Court of Washington, Chief Justice Stephens issued a Third Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations No. 25700-B-625

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that effective June 1, 2020 and continuing until further notice. The following shall apply:

- A. All Court Rules are suspended until further notice.
- B. The Court is closed to the public as a result of being located inside Centralia City Hall, and the Centralia City Hall has been closed to the public. Only individuals scheduled for court may gain entry for the purpose of their hearing.
- C. All traffic infraction hearings are cancelled and shall be done in writing. Forms to contest, mitigate or request a Deferred Finding are available online at www.cityofcentralia.com.
- D. Traffic Safety School may be granted on a case by case basis a request to do so should be make via phone to the clerk of the court at 360-330-7667.
- E. Traffic infractions may be paid infraction in full, contact the Court for payment information, or Payments may be made online, via NCourt Online Payments, at

www.cityofcentralia.com or by calling NCourt directly (844) 680-7205, or by mailing in a check or money order to PO BOX 609 Centralia, WA 98531;

- F. Criminal cases where a defendant is detained in custody on that particular criminal case will proceed as currently scheduled;
- G. New criminal cases where a defendant is detained on that particular case will continue to be scheduled for hearing per the usual rules and practice of the Court;
- H. If any defendant currently detained in custody is released while this order is in effect their matters will be re-scheduled;
- I. Criminal matters shall be heard in person under strict observance of social distancing and other public health measures.
- J. New criminal cases where a defendant is not arrested and detained shall be filed by law enforcement with the Court. The Court Clerk shall send out summonses to appear for arraignment;
- K. Sentencing Compliance hearings (probation hearings) will be rescheduled to after September 1, 2020 unless deemed an emergency by the court, or unless the defendant is detained in custody;
- L. All jury trials are cancelled and are to be reset to Pre Trial status for a date on or after July 6, 2020;
- M. All bench trials are to be considered on a case by case basis, however, parties are encouraged to reset;
- N. In Custody hearings shall be heard as scheduled, via Video Hearing. These hearings are recorded and can be obtained by the public, upon request, in order to maintain the public's right to access court to the extent reasonable under the circumstances;
- O. Defense counsel has the authority to complete a promise to appear on behalf of their client and sign it "Not signed by Defendant Under Supreme Court Order." The original shall be filed with the court. Defense counsel can notify their clients as they see fit.

- P. Any period of continuance ordered by the court, based on caseloads, judicial economy, or for the convenience of the court due to COVID-19 and the backlog of cases that have resulted, shall be an excluded period of the purpose of calculating time for trial.
- Q. Such continuances will not prejudice any defendant or party impacted and each case impacted will, in addition to this order, be addressed on a case by case basis;
- R. At the time of hearing, the Court shall make a further determination whether to extend the excluded period, apply additional excluded periods, or enlarge the time for trial in the interests of fairness and equity to parties involved.
- S. The Centralia Municipal Court remains closed to the General Public until Phase 3 of Washington State's Phased approach is reached and City Hall opens to the public.
- T. The 24/7 Sobriety Monitoring Program shall remain in full operation until further notice.
- U. The time period allowed to complete Traffic Safety Class will be increased.

This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continued assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials

DATED this 29 day of May, 2020.



Presiding Judge