

**Municipal Court of Washington  
For City of Chehalis**

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCY,

No. 2020-01

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

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**This Administrative Order** is being issued in response to a current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Lewis County now has a confirmed case of the virus and the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency and has banned events that has more than 50 people, as well as closing all schools in Washington. On March 4, 2020, the Washington Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to the judges of the state of Washington 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.

Now, therefore, it is hereby:

Ordered that effective immediately and until further Order of the court:

1. The court office and the courtroom is closed to the public for the time being. Court staff may be available by phone or email.
2. All criminal jury trials shall be continued approximately 3 months from the date the trial is set to a date as determined by the court. All jury panels for the month of March, April and May are hereby cancelled.
3. All time for trial rules in CrRLJ 3.3 are suspended. All other court rules are hereby suspended until May 31, 2020.
4. Subject to a written exparte request to the court showing good cause for a hearing date to be accelerated from the continued hearing date, the court takes the following emergency actions:
  - A. The following criminal matters are continued:

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

1. Arraignments for all charges are suspended to be reset when the court reopens. To effectuate these continuances, CrRLJ 4.1 shall be suspended. These cases will be continued for approximately 90 days to a date set by the court.

2. Hearings for in custody defendants will continue weekly. All other defendants will be rescheduled as needed.

3. Motions to vacate warrants, ex parte motions, requests for cancellation of No Contact Orders and other administrative requests for action will be heard ex parte in chambers. A defendant, who contacts the court by email or by telephone, seeking to quash a warrant, may have the request granted as long as the defendant provides his or her current mailing address.

4. Bench Warrants may not be issued for any defendant who fails to appear for any hearing in the next two months, except for extraordinary circumstances.

5. Litigants are encouraged to contact the Court concerning their dates and any request for action.

6. Case by case exception to these orders may be ordered for non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court and after consultation with counsel.

B. Traffic infractions:

1. Traffic infraction cases will be continued to the month of June, 2020, or thereafter as may be warranted to address the threat to public health.

2. Mitigation hearings may be heard by mail.

Dated 3-17-2020

  
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Judge

Print Name: DALE A. MCBETH