

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE )  
TO PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT AND )  
PROCEDURES FOR COURTROOM ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
)  
) NO. 20-002  
)  
\_\_\_\_\_)

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (hereafter “disease”).

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in Washington, the severity of risk posed to the public, and the authority granted by the Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-602 (March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020), additional immediate action by the Court is required:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby-

ORDERED that effective immediately, until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, or until further Order of the Court-

1. Emergency Administrative Order No. 2020-1 remains in full effect.
2. Washington’s judicial officers have broad discretion “to preserve and enforce order in the courtroom and to provide for the orderly conduct of the proceedings.” *State v. Lormer*, 172 Wn.2d 85 (2011);
3. “Just as trial court judges are permitted to exclude distracting individuals, they are permitted to impose reasonable restrictions on the public’s manner of entry so as to minimize the risk of distraction or impact on the proceedings.” *State v. Gomez*, 183 Wn.2d 29 (2015);
4. In order to insure that appropriate six foot social distancing occurs within the Lincoln County District Courthouse courtroom, the Court’s judicial officers, and staff, may require any individual inside a courtroom to leave the courtroom until such time as their individual case is called for hearing. Furthermore, the Court and staff may require any individual inside the courtroom to maintain six foot social distancing. Failure to comply may result in possible contempt of court sanctions.

5. The Court declines to engage in a *Bone Club* analysis because the Court is not closing the courtroom to the public. *State v. Bone-Club*, 128 Wn.2d 254 (1995); *Gomez, supra*; The public is welcome to attend all proceedings, subject to compliance with procedures.
6. Individuals temporarily excluded from a courtroom shall, as much as possible, continue to adhere to six foot social distancing requirements while inside the Lincoln County District Courthouse. Lincoln County District Court remains open.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAN B. JOHNSON  
Presiding Judge- Lincoln County District Court