

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OKANOGAN

IN THE MATTER OF: Emergency Response to a
Threat to General Public Health and Welfare, Caused
By the Wildfire Activity and County State of
Emergency

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
OF THE COURT: 2020-6

NO. 20-2-00001-24

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CLERK

Pursuant to General Rule (GR) 21(a), the Presiding Judge of the above-entitled court hereby issues this General Order (GO) 2020-6.

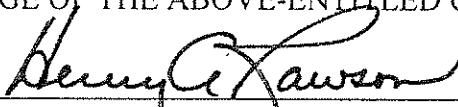
Okanogan County experienced an aggressive firestorm on Sunday and Monday (September 6 and 7, 2020), which has again devastated tens of thousands of acres; displaced residents; disrupted businesses and communities; requiring moving of livestock and domestic animals; affecting wildlife and their habitat; and current operations involving the harvesting of commercial crops vital to the economy of the county. The Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners has declared a State of Emergency.

Further many critical services (electrical power, phone, TV, and internet) have been interrupted or not available along with other forms of communications. Transportation has been disrupted with roads or highways closed. Air pollution from the heavy smoke represents and creates a personal health hazard for many individuals. Law Enforcement personnel and other first responders have been working overtime to address needs throughout the county. Emergency services have responded with extraordinary courage and determination.

With all that has been going on with COVID alone, the foregoing compounds the response of our county citizens who are resilient and determined. In fact a criminal jury trial was held just last week. However, the need to response to the current events requires the Okanogan Superior Court to delay criminal jury trials in the week of September 8 through 11, 2020, in order to allow the citizens to aid themselves, their neighbors, and to avoid further risks to the health and well-being of those responding to the civic call of jury service. Additionally court security is of concern due to additional response of law enforcement given current happenings.

Therefore the undersigned as Presiding Judge of the Okanogan County Superior Court does hereby declare that NO JURY TRIALS will be held during the week of September 8 through 11, 2020 because of health risks to prospective jurors and court personnel along with security needs required to conduct proper court proceedings.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT ON
THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.


Henry A Rawson, Presiding Judge