

MAR 16 2020

SUPERIOR COURT
STEVENS COUNTY, WA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COUNTIES OF FERRY, PEND OREILLE, AND STEVENS

IN THE MATTER OF) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
SUPERIOR COURT'S RESPONSE TO THE)
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY) NO. 20-2-00001-33
RE: ADULT CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS) Document No. 8

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Stevens issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of the trial courts in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 (attached hereto), granting emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

WHEREAS, our courtrooms and jury rooms are not large enough to implement social distancing measures during customarily large dockets and criminal jury trials; and, proper hand hygiene and sanitation is not readily available in sufficient quantity to accommodate all attendees and participants in all courtrooms;

The Superior Court for the Tri-County Judicial District of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties FINDS modifications of the court calendar and procedures are necessary to ensure continued operation of the court and performance of essential court functions during this public health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

RE: SUPERIOR COURTROOMS

- A. Any person who is ill shall not enter the courtroom.
- B. Any person exhibiting symptoms of illness may be ordered to leave the courtroom.
- C. Social distancing measures shall be implemented to the greatest extent possible in the courtroom(s).

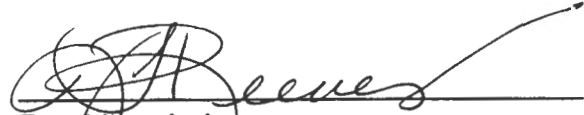
- D. Failure to comply with the directions of the court or court staff regarding these courtroom provisions may result in being ordered to leave the courtroom and/or sanctions for contempt of court.

RE: ADULT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS:

- A. All criminal jury trial terms are hereby suspended until April 30, 2020.
- B. Cases previously set for trial during the April 2020 jury terms shall be continued to the May 2020 jury trial terms.
- C. Pursuant to CrR 3.3(e)(8), the period of time between the date of this order and April 30, 2020, shall be an excluded period for the purposes of speedy trial calculations.
- D. First appearances and arraignments for in-custody defendants will continue to be held according to the current practices in each county. Attorneys are strongly encouraged to appear in the courtroom for these hearings, rather than from the jail video room, and to avoid close in person contact with inmates in the jail to the greatest extent possible during this public health emergency.
- E. CrR 4.1(a)(2), pertaining to speedy arraignment of out of custody defendants is hereby suspended until April 30, 2020.

The Superior Court will address the safety measures to be implemented in other case types by separate order.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.


Presiding Judge

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY
WASHINGTON STATE COURTS TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN
WASHINGTON STATE

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ORDER

NO. 25700- B-602

WHEREAS. On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties in the state of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS. during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in these counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their regular operations; and

WHEREAS. the presiding judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized 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;
2. Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
3. Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as practicable.

4. Each court shall, as soon as practicable, publish in full all rules or orders adopted or modified to address this public health emergency on its local website.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 9th day of March, 2020.

For the Court


CHIEF JUSTICE DEBRA L. STEPHENS