

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT)
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19)
AND RELATED CORAVIRUS) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
) NO. 2020-01

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

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All court rules are suspended until April 30, 2020.
2. All contested civil infractions are continued to the month of May 2020 or thereafter as may be warranted to address the threat to the public health.
3. All future set in-person appearances for mitigation hearings will be converted to hearings by mail appearances only.
4. Due to the court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of public health recommendations and availability of counsel and court staff to be present in the courtroom, jury trials are suspended through April 2020. Jury trials will be reset subsequent to that date by future court order. The period of the continuances implemented by this Administrative Order will be excluded for calculation of speedy trial as the court specifically finds this to be an excluded period under CrRIJ 3.3(e).

5. All criminal cases now pending are continued to the month of May 2020 or thereafter as may be warranted to address the threat to public health.
6. The court will hear in-custody cases and other emergency matters as necessary to preserve defendants' constitutional rights. The Court reserves the right to maintain or schedule arraignments, pretrial hearings, or reviews/revocation hearings as necessary in cases involving threats to public safety, including but not limited to domestic violence offenses and driving while under the influence/physical control.
7. The court office will be closed to the public from March 16, 2020 through April 3, 2020 and will be evaluated at that time. Court staff will be available by telephone and via email at court@cityofgigharbor.net.
8. This order may be amended or withdrawn as warranted to address the ongoing public health emergency.

DATED this 16th day of March 2020.



Zenon P. Olbertz, Presiding Judge