

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF MONROE

IN THE MATTER OF)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)	
Emergency Response)	No. 2020-03
To COVID-19 and)	
Threat to Public Health)	

On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 4, 2020, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to “adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current public health emergency.”

On March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order directing non-essential businesses to close, banning public gatherings and requiring Washingtonians to stay home except to pursue essential activities.

At the end of March, Monroe City Mayor Thomas closed Monroe City Hall. Monroe Municipal Court and Monroe City hall share a public entrance.

On April 29, 2020, Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens adopted Order No. 25700-B-618 which supersedes the Court’s previous order and provides direction and authority to presiding judges.

On May 4, 2020, Governor Inslee extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order through May 31, 2020.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority given this Court through the Washington State Supreme Court Order and GR 29, this Emergency Order is effective May 5, 2020 and shall remain in effect unless renewed, modified, or rescinded by the Monroe Municipal Court Judge.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Traffic Infraction Hearings: All infraction calendars between March 16, 2020 and May 31, 2020 requiring a personal appearance are stricken and cases will be reset to a calendar after May 31, 2020. New hearing notices will be mailed by the Court. Hearings currently calendared for appearance on a written by-mail statement pursuant to IRLJ 3.5 will continue to be heard. The time for hearing provisions as set out in IRLJ 2.6 are suspended. Anyone who receives a notice of infraction is still required to respond to the notice of infraction within fifteen (15) days of the date the notice is personally served or, if the notice is served by mail, within eighteen (18) days of the date the notice is mailed.

2. Criminal Hearings:
 - a) Arraignments: Out of custody criminal cases filed between March 16, 2020 and July 3, 2020 will be deferred until a date 45 days after the filing of charges. Good cause exists under CrRLJ 4.1 to extend the arraignment date. The new arraignment date shall be considered the "initial commencement date" for purposes of establishing the time for trial under CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1). New hearing notices will be mailed by the Court.

 - b) All criminal motions currently calendared are stricken and may be re-noted after May 31, 2020. The Court may consider ex-parte agreed motions to quash warrants, motions to review pre-trial release conditions, and any other motion with the consent of the Judge.

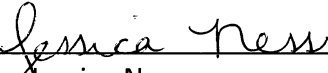
 - c) All criminal cases currently pending are continued until after May 31, 2020. New hearing notices will be mailed by the Court.

 - d) All Jury Trials currently calendared are continued to a trial term after July 6, 2020.

 - e) The Court will continue to hear in custody cases as necessary to preserve defendants' constitutional rights.

3. Any State Court Rules that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Administrative Order are suspended during the effective time of this Order.

DATED this 4th Day of May, 2020



Judge Jessica Ness
Monroe Municipal Court