

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF MONROE

IN THE MATTER OF)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)	
Emergency Response)	No. 2020-04
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 corona virus (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 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. The Supreme Court has since created additional orders for guidance to this Court.

On May 4, 2020, Governor Inslee extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order through May 31, 2020. The timeline for re-opening government buildings in Snohomish County is uncertain at this time.

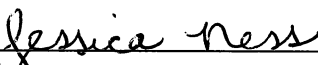
Accordingly, pursuant to the authority given this Court through the Washington State Supreme Court Order and GR 29, this Emergency Order is effective June 3, 2020 and shall remain in effect unless renewed, modified, or rescinded by the Monroe Municipal Court Judge.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Traffic Infraction Hearings: All infractions will be heard via email or on a written by-mail statement submitted to the Court pursuant to IRLJ 3.5 through September 1, 2020. 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 may 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). Hearing notices will be mailed by the Court.
 - b) The Court will schedule remote hearings. All parties scheduled for hearings must appear remotely by video or audio, unless otherwise permitted or ordered by the court to appear in person. The Court shall make remote hearings available to the public. The Court's audio recording continues to be the official record of the hearings.
 - c) The Court may contact parties who had previously noted motions that were stricken because of the Court's emergency order continuing all non-emergency in-person hearings, and notify them that they need to re-note their motion if they still wish to have their motion heard. The Court will continue to consider submitted agreed motions and orders, which may be submitted by email or fax.
 - d) Jury Trials are continued to a trial term after September 1, 2020.
 - e) The Court will continue to hear in custody cases as necessary to preserve defendants' constitutional rights.
3. All persons physically coming to Court must comply with the following:
 - a. Anyone who is sick should not come to court. Notify your attorney if represented by one. If you do not have an attorney, please notify the court via phone, email, or fax prior to your scheduled court hearing.

- b. All visitors are required to use hand sanitizer immediately prior to entering the court area.
 - c. All visitors must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth area. The court may ask defendants or witnesses to temporarily remove their mask for identification purposes. Attendees must bring their own masks. The Court will have a limited supply of masks to provide to the indigent, if needed.
 - d. Seating in the courtroom has been reduced to allow for six-foot social distancing recommended by health experts. Attendees are to comply with the configuration of the seating and not move the arranged seating without permission of the court.
 - e. Court staff must wear masks when in public common areas, including the courtroom.
 - f. Court security must wear a mask when interacting with others or when in the public common area.
 - g. Any attendee failing to comply with court access requirements will be denied entry.
4. The Court's front window will continue to be closed to the public until Monroe City Hall is re-opened. The Court continues to remain open and can be reached via phone, email, fax, or mail.

DATED this 3rd Day of June, 2020



Judge Jessica Ness
Monroe Municipal Court