

**SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC
HEALTH

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO.3 Amendment to Emergency Order No.1

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State and Spokane County:

- As of March 17th, 2020, President Donald Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced guidelines for the next fifteen (15) days to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those guidelines recommend limiting, as best as possible, all social gatherings to no more than ten (10) people.
- As of March 16, 2020, Spokane County Superior Court suspended all jury summons until April 27th, 2020 and ordered that jury personnel for Spokane County Superior Court call off jurors summoned immediately. The Spokane County Superior Court ordered that the Superior Court would conduct no criminal jury trial until at least April 27th, 2020.
- As of March 16th, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee ordered a statewide shutdown of all restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities. Governor Inslee also prohibited the gathering of more than 50 people. Gatherings of less than 50 people are prohibited unless previous criteria for public health and social distancing are met.
- As of March 15th, 2020, in King County, Washington there are approximately 420 confirmed cases and 37 deaths. On Friday, March 13th, 2020, Dr. Bob Lutz, Spokane County Health Officer announced three (3) confirmed cases in Spokane County, Washington with expectations that number will increase.

- On March 14th, 2020, the Spokane County District Court was informed that a Spokane County District Court (SCDC) employee had been exposed to COVID-19.
- On March 14th and March 13th, 2020, Dr. Bob Lutz, Spokane County Health Officer recommended measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those recommendations included but were not limited to cancelling all scheduled events over 250 attendees for the next 30 days, effective immediately, and social distancing.
- On March 13th, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee ordered statewide school closure for six weeks amid the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On March 13th, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- On March 4th, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and order, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency issued as an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operation of trial courts in Washington State.
- On February 29th, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee declared a state-wide emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- Spokane County District Court's courtrooms are high-volume courtrooms and collectively handle more than 100,000 matters each year for both the County as well as cities that contract with the Court for District Court services. Therefore, it is necessary for the Spokane County District Court to make modifications to the court operations to allow for the orderly transition to a system of work that will allow for implementation of systems and procedures that will meet the concerns and directives required.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that effective Thursday, March 19th, 2020, any previous emergency orders, and or provisions of emergency orders now in effect which conflict with the Supreme Court of Washington's Order No. 25700-B-606, filed on March 18th, 2020, shall be superseded and the Spokane County District Court adopts by reference, (See, The Supreme Court of Washington Order No. 25700-B-606) in its entirety, the Supreme Court of Washington's Order No. 25700-B-606 as those provisions relate to Spokane County District Court matters.

- In addition, the Ex Parte Protection Order Docket and Hearings shall be conducted electronically, telephonically, or by video, unless impossible.

- Petitioners may find civil petitions for protection orders (domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault and stalking) on the SCDC website:
<https://www.spokanecounty.org/2789/Civil-Protection-Orders>
- Petitioners can email their completed petition to the Civil Department for filing and processing at civilprotectionorder@spokanecounty.org, Monday – Friday 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.
- Good cause exists for the SCDC to extend ex parte protection orders beyond the initial period until a hearing can be held.
- All **out of custody** criminal matters already pending shall be continued until after April 24th, 2020, this includes **out of custody** DUI and DV Arraignments/First Appearances. Arraignment of out of custody cases filed between today’s date and April 24th, 2020, or the first appearance in court after that date shall be deferred until a date 45 day after the filing of the charge. Good cause exists under CrRLJ 4.1 to extend the arraignment dates. The new arraignment date shall be considered the “initial commencement date” for purposes of establishing the time for trial under Cr.RLJ 3.3(c)(1).

For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, the delay/continuance shall constitute an excluded period for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule.


It is further ordered, all hearings delayed by this order will have notices mailed to the parties of the next scheduled hearing date via US mail. Any party needing to update their mailing address should contact the court clerk at (509) 477-4770 or via email at Criminal and Infraction Clerk’s Office – dccasemgmt@spokanecounty.org
Civil Clerk’s Office – dccivil@spokanecounty.org

For all hearings not continued by effect of this rule, telephonic and video hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible to encourage social distancing as recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and local public health officials.

All courthouse locations will remain open; however, the public is encouraged to contact the court via telephone or email.

This order may be modified consistent with the Spokane County District Court’s continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2020.


Acting Presiding Judge Almee Maurer