

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY)
RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH)
THREAT) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
 NO. 2020-2

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee declared a statewide emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court issued Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority to all Washington courts to adopt, modify and suspend court rules and to take further actions as necessary concerning court operations as warranted to address the current state of the public health emergency that affects the operation of trial courts in Washington state.

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President of the United States, Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee prohibited the gathering of more than 50 people. Gatherings of less than 50 people are prohibited unless previously established criteria for public health and social distancing are met.

WHEREAS, the Stevens County District Court is a high-volume court in Stevens County that handles dockets each day of the business week. The District Court courtroom is not large enough to consistently ensure compliance with the requirements of current public health emergency restrictions.

THEREFORE, it is necessary for the Stevens County District Court to make modifications to court operations to ensure implementation of procedures necessary to the continued operation of the court and performance of essential court functions during this public health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

CLERK'S WINDOW:

The Clerk's door and window area will remain open to the public during designated hours. The clerks will continue to accept filings and provide copies of documents in person. The clerks will continue to answer the telephones and receive faxed documents from the public during designated hours. However, the court encourages all parties to make payments online, via mail, or over the phone.

DISTRICT COURTROOM:

1. Any persons who are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever or other respiratory problem are asked not to come into the Stevens County District Court courthouse, courtroom or Clerk's office.
2. All persons in the public area of the Clerk's office and the courtroom shall practice the guidelines of social distancing which may require the Court to limit the number of people present.

PRIORITY CASE TYPES THAT WILL CONTINUE:

1. In-custody hearings for defendants who are held in jail will continue as scheduled and as new cases are filed.
2. First appearance hearings on cases involving Driving Under the Influence, Physical Control and Domestic Violence.
3. Hearings for protection orders will continue as scheduled and as new cases are filed.

HEARING TYPES TO BE RESCHEDULED:

Effective immediately, other than priority case types as listed above, the Court will continue or reschedule until after April 30, 2020 or further order of the Court, all other currently scheduled hearings.

1. Other than priority case types listed above, all other hearings where the defendant is not detained on the particular criminal case.
2. Infraction hearings unless scheduled for written or on-line mitigation or deferred infraction hearing.
3. All criminal and civil jury trial terms are hereby suspended until April 30, 2020.
4. Name Change petitions absent an emergent need set forth in writing.
5. All Small Claims court hearings.

6. Matters relating to the impound of motor vehicles absent an emergent need set forth in writing.
7. Civil hearings/trials requiring the parties to appear in court.
8. Criminal bench warrant quash hearings.
9. Show Cause hearings in Probation matters, unless otherwise directed by the Court.

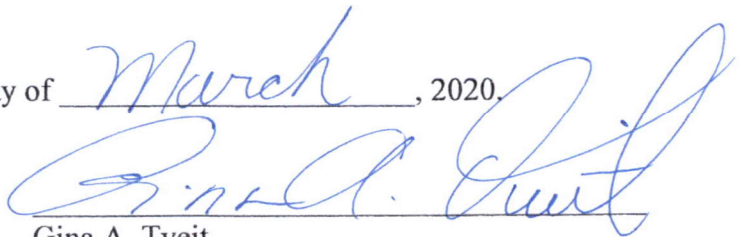
GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Stevens County District Court Probation appointments will continue but will be conducted via telephone. All defendants are required to contact his/her probation officer at the regularly scheduled time via telephone unless otherwise directed by the Probation Officer.
2. For all hearings not continued by the effect of this rule, telephonic and video conference hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible. The Court further encourages attorneys to submit agreed orders for off-docket review when appropriate.
3. For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency 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.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. This Order does not prohibit the Court's consideration of criminal, civil and infraction motions and ex parte matters that can be resolved in writing or by agreement of the parties.
2. Case-by-case exceptions to the provisions herein may be granted at the discretion of the Court.
3. This Order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the on-going public health emergency.

DATED this 17 day of March, 2020.



Gina A. Tveit
Presiding Stevens County District Court Judge

STEVENS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Effective Date: March 23, 2020

Authority: By Declaration of Gina Tveit, Presiding Judge for Stevens County District Court and the Emergency Orders issued by the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court on March 4, 2020 and March 18, 2020.

Scope: This declaration applies to Stevens County District Court and to all cases filed therein, including the cases filed in Stevens County District Court by the cities of Colville, Chewelah and Kettle Falls.

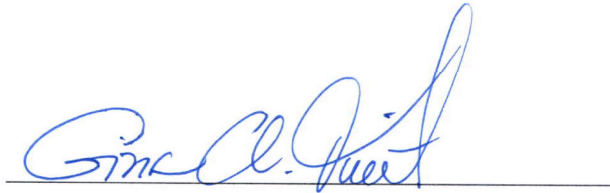
Operations: To help protect the health of court users and employees during the COVID-19 national emergency pandemic, Stevens County District Court asks the public to contact the court by telephone, via mail or on-line whenever possible.

The Stevens County District Court has suspended normal operations and will be open to the public to conduct regular business as follows, until further notice:

- **Office and Telephone Hours** for the Stevens County District Court Clerk's Office are Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Stevens County District Court Clerk's Office will continue to accept new filings for general civil matters, small claims and name changes, although hearing dates may be deferred.
- Stevens County District Court Clerk's Office will continue to accept criminal and civil infraction filings, although hearing dates may be deferred.
- All emergency matters, including but not limited to first appearance hearings in Driving Under the Influence, Physical Control, Domestic Violence and Protection Order cases will continue to be scheduled and held by telephone, video or other means that does not require in-person attendance, unless impossible. Where court matters must be heard in person, social distancing and other public health measures must be strictly observed.
- In custody hearings for defendants who are held in jail will continue to be held and scheduled for first appearances, arraignments, plea hearings, criminal motions and sentencing hearings.
- Stevens County District Court Clerk's Office will continue to accept new filings of Petitions for Orders of Protection although hearing dates may be deferred if the Court deems the matter to be non-emergency.

- The Stevens County Probation Department will remain open and appointments will continue but will be conducted by telephone unless otherwise directed by the Probation Officer.
- All persons entering the Stevens County District Court Clerk's Office window area and District Court Courtroom will be required to adhere to the CDC recommendations for social distancing and are further instructed not to enter the clerk's office and/or courtroom if they are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19.

Commitment to restoring operations: Stevens County District Court recognizes that judicial services are essential to the community and is committed to restoring full operations as soon as it is safe to do so.



Gina A. Tveit
Stevens County District Court, Presiding Judge