

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS

In the Matter of the)	
Emergency Response to)	No. 2020-4
Public Health Threat)	

Emergency Order Suspending Jury Trials scheduled to occur in the October 2020 jury term

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the COVID 19 outbreak in Washington; and, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID 19 outbreak across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued emergency orders in response to the public health emergency that affect operations of the trial courts in Washington State, to include Order No. 25700-B-642 issued on September 10, 2020, *Extending Excluded Period in Calculating Time for Trial and Adopting Related Emergency Measures*; and,

WHEREAS, the Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) issued a News Release on October 1, 2020 confirming 15 positive cases of COVID-19 within the Stevens County Jail, located in the Stevens County Courthouse, and potential exposure to multiple departments within the courthouse. NETCHD further announced that the results of a second round of testing were pending. In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, NETCHD has requested the departments in the Stevens County courthouse to minimize in-person services as much as feasible.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has granted 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, pursuant to the District Court's authority to administer justice in the Tri-County Judicial District and to ensure the safety of litigants, attorneys, court staff, judges, and members of the public, the Court FINDS it is necessary to suspend the conduct of jury trials until November 2, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

All jury trials scheduled to occur in the October 2020 jury term are hereby suspended. The Court Administrator shall remove from the calendar all jury trial terms scheduled to occur in the October 2020 jury term and issue notice of Trial Readiness hearings for the month of November 2020.

DATED this 7 day of October, 2020.


Gina A. Tveit

Stevens County District Court Presiding Judge