
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
WALLA WALLA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
EMERGENCY ORDER

Adopted March 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Walla Walla County have also declared a state of emergency in Walla Walla County due to the same public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting 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, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Effective March 16, 2020, this Emergency Order shall be in effect for Walla Walla County Superior Court and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Walla Walla County Superior Court Presiding Judge. This order shall apply to all those persons who are transacting business with Walla Walla County Superior Court and shall include but not be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses and jurors.

- 1) Anyone showing signs of illness or feeling ill shall not enter the Walla Walla County Superior Court Courtrooms.
- 2) Persons in the high-risk categories for COVID-19 are encouraged to avail themselves of the policies in this order. The high-risk categories include:
 - a. People over 60 years of age
 - b. People with underlying health conditions, including heart disease, lung disease or diabetes
 - c. People with weakened immune systems
 - d. Pregnant women

Anyone who cannot enter the courtroom or those in the high-risk category who wish to avail themselves of this order shall contact the appropriate Department to request other arrangements be made related to their court business.

- 3) To allow for social distancing, the Court may limit the number of people who can be in each Department. The Court reserves the right to modify or cancel any court calendar upon short notice to accommodate any concerns regarding courtroom crowding and to facilitate reduction in courtroom population.
- 4) Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, Paternity, Domestic Calendars will continue with possible modifications at the discretion of the Court.
- 5) Adult Recovery Court, Family Treatment Court and Juvenile Drug Court will continue with possible modifications at the discretion of the Court.
- 6) Until further notice, the Court will not confirm any jury trials involving juries of 12. This determination shall be reviewed every two weeks starting immediately and shall be rescinded at such time as the Court determines it is no longer necessary.

- 7) Jury trials involving juries of 6 shall be allowed to proceed until further notice. Such trials shall be suspended in the event the Court determines that current information from the County Health Department and the Center on Disease Control for World Health indicate that such trials cannot safely be held taking into consideration the limitations of the Superior Court facility.
- 8) All other hearings will proceed as scheduled at the discretion of the Court.
- 9) Attorneys and pro se litigants are encouraged to note for hearing only those matters they believe to be emergent. Attorneys and pro se litigants should use their best judgment in deciding whether a matter is emergent taking into consideration the current public health emergency noted above.
- 10) This order is subject to change as conditions warrant.

Dated: 3/14/2020


M. Scott Wolfram, Presiding Judge
Walla Walla County Superior Court