IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT	))))	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20-001

WHEREAS, The Chief Justice of the Washington Supreme Court has issued an emergency order in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency that affects operations of courts in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to all state courts 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; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, this court conducts various dockets and hearings in which 50 people or more are likely to attend,

NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2020 UNTIL THIS ORDER IS RESCINDED, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. CLERKS' AREA: The Clerks' area in the front of the District Courthouse will remain open to the public. However, the court encourages all parties to make payments online, via mail or over the phone. The Clerks will continue to accept filings and provide copies of documents in person, subject to the provisions of this Order.

2. PARTY SIGNATURES: The court will not require any defendant's signature on court orders. Instead, the order and docket will note how the party received notice and copy of any applicable order. Counsel, if a party is represented, shall be responsible for hand-delivering court orders to the party.

3. INFRACTIONS: All currently scheduled in-person infraction hearings will be continued to a date certain no less than ninety (90) days from the currently scheduled hearing date. The court finds good cause pursuant to IRLJ 6.1 and CRLJ 6 for such continuances. Anyone with a pending infraction will continue to have the option to submit written responses online or by email or mail. 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. Individuals can respond by mail, by delivering their response to the Clerks' area, or by submitting their response online through the court's website.

4. IN-CUSTODY CRIMINAL HEARINGS: All in-custody hearings, except trials, shall be by video conference from the jail. Counsel are encouraged, in cases where nothing is to take place other than continuing the hearing, to obtain the defendant's signature to the appropriate order and present it for ex parte signature by the court. Any waiver of a defendant's right to speedy trial shall be done on the record via video conference.

5. OUT OF CUSTODY ARRAIGNMENTS: All out of custody arraignments shall be conducted in person in the courtroom. Such in-person hearings shall be limited to no more than twenty (20) defendants at a time and the court reserves the right to schedule different arraignment calendars during the week the arraignment was originally scheduled.

6. CRIMINAL: All other criminal matters shall be heard as previously scheduled, subject to the court limiting the number of defendants present at any time to no more than twenty (20). The court will accept agreed motions to continue without the defendant having to appear in court. The court also finds and concludes in accordance with CrRLJ 3.3(f) that all continuances granted or ordered by the court pursuant to this Order are required in the administration of justice and further finds that good cause exists for such continuances and that criminal defendants will not be prejudiced in the presentation of their defenses by any such continuances.

7. PROBATION AND PRE-TRIAL SUPERVISION: All defendants required to check in with Probation are encouraged to do so by telephone, although the Probation Officers will continue to see defendants in person pursuant to any schedule that the Probation Officers set. All DV-MRT and Anger Management sessions shall be suspended until the week of April 20, 2020. Defendants ordered to attend such sessions shall check in with Probation by phone or individually in person as scheduled by Probation. Show cause hearings for active probation will continue to be filed but will be scheduled for no sooner than sixty (60) days from the date of this Order, absent an emergency which warrants a sooner hearing.

8. CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS: Until further Order of this court, no criminal jury trials shall be called. All currently scheduled jury trials shall be continued by the court to a date certain no later than sixty (60) days from the currently scheduled trial date. If a defendant claims that his or her ability to present a defense will be compromised by such continuance, steps will be taken to remedy the situation, such as preserving testimony via deposition or other means. Based on the above-referenced Washington Supreme Court order, court rules, including but not limited to, CrRLJ 3.3 are suspended.

9. CIVIL MATTERS: The court finds good cause to continue any currently set civil bench trials and small claims hearings 60 days from its currently scheduled date. The clerk will notify the parties of the new trial date. All civil motions or other hearings will be heard by the court at their regularly scheduled date and time, subject to the court's ability to limit the number of parties present during any such hearings.

10. BENCH WARRANTS: Bench warrants will not be issued for any defendant who fails to appear for any criminal hearing, absent a determination by the judge that the emergency in not issuing the warrant outweighs the emergency necessitating this Order.

11. CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS: The court will continue to schedule hearings in all civil protection order proceedings, subject to the court's ability to limit the number of parties present during any such hearings.

12. GENERAL HYGIENE PRACTICES: All persons entering the *District* Courthouse are encouraged, and may be required by Court Security or the Clerks, to use hand sanitizer immediately prior to entering the courtroom. All individuals who enter the courtroom shall practice, when *practicable*, the

recommended six-foot social distancing recommendations by public health authorities. Anyone who is complaining of, or exhibiting symptoms, that cause concern to the Court Security Officer or the Clerks shall be prohibited from entering the courtroom and shall be given a new court date, as appropriate. Anyone who has business with the court who is experiencing or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to contact the court by phone or email and request a continuance of their court date, which will be routinely granted by the court during the time that this Order remains in effect.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2020.

Kristian E. Hedine
Presiding Judge