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4 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
5 IN AND FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

6 In re:)
7) GENERAL ORDER NO.
8)
9 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION)
10 SUPPLEMENTING THE SUPREME) GR21
11 COURT ORDER RELATING TO)
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH)
EMERGENCY)
_____)

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13 Whereas, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued multiple statewide
14 orders requiring state courts to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

15 Whereas Yakima County District Court entered its own order on June 11, 2020
16 that ordered that out of custody criminal matters and nonemergent civil matters except
17 protection order hearings be stricken unless the parties notify the court at least one day
18 prior to the scheduled matter that they can proceed virtually, telephonically or in person
19 with proper social distancing following public health measures; that order also
20 suspended all jury trials until September 1, 2020;

21 Whereas Yakima County District on June 26, 2020, extended the June 11, 2020
22 order and ordered the appropriate use of face coverings and social distancing while in a
23 Yakima County District Court location.

24 Whereas Yakima County District Court on August 26, 2020 rescinded the June
25 11, 2020 order as to all criminal, civil and name change hearings and ordered that they

1 will be heard in accordance it posted safety plan. That order also suspended trials until
2 October 1, 2020. The safety modifications will not be completed in time to
3 accommodate a trial on October 7, 2020 but should be completed by October 14, 2020.

4 Whereas, Yakima County District Court desires to modify said orders to give
5 clear direction to the public, litigants, attorneys and court staff how the Supreme Court
6 order shall be implemented in Yakima County and to modify its own order in light of
7 improved conditions in Yakima County; and

8 Whereas, Yakima County District Court has consulted with the Yakima County
9 Health Department concerning the current status of the COVID-19 virus as well as
10 recommendations from the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control
11 concerning attempts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus; and

12 Whereas, Yakima County COVID-19 conditions have improved significantly it
13 still reports new cases daily with totals to date of 12,471 confirmed cases and 240
14 deaths. Yakima County's remains in a modified phase 1 of the Governor's reopening
15 plan. The local Health District continues its directive urging its citizens to wear face
16 coverings. The Secretary of Health continues to mandate face coverings statewide and
17 Governor Inslee has proclaimed that no person may appear in a public place or
18 business without a face covering in Yakima County been expanded statewide. Yakima
19 County District Court continues to modify its facilities and procedures to best protect
20 everyone in its facilities. However, more time is needed to enact those measures to
21 safely conduct jury trials.

22 Whereas, the Yakima County District Court deems said supplemental order does
23 not conflict with the Supreme Court Order and is warranted to address the current state
24 of emergency within Yakima County.
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1 NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and
2 to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

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5 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:
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9 1. All previous orders suspending hearings are hereby rescinded . All matters will
10 be heard in accordance with the safety plan posted at
11 www.yakimacounty.us/districtcourt. That plan will continue to allow parties to
12 appear virtually, telephonically or in person with proper social distancing following
13 public health measures
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15 2. All jury trials are suspend until October 14, 2020 and shall be conducted in
16 accordance with the safety plan posted on www.yakimacounty.us/districtcourt.
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18 3. All persons must continue to wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of
19 the mouth and nose when entering or remaining in a Yakima County District
20 Court location unless they have a precluding condition in accordance with the
21 public health guidelines. All persons shall strictly adhere to all directions and
22 markings to ensure social distancing. All persons who enter any district court
23 courtroom must maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and anyone
24 who is not a member of their household. The number of persons allowed into a
25 courtroom at any one time shall be limited. The courtrooms are marked to
indicate allowable seating and places to stand when moving about the
courtroom. Anyone, including attorneys, failing to strictly adhere to the social

1 distancing provisions of this Order may be asked to leave, or will be removed
2 from, the courtroom.

- 3 4. A judicial officer may allow or order individuals actively participating in a court
4 proceeding to remove their face coverings, if the judicial officer deems it can be
5 done safely and is necessary to facilitate clear communication and due process.
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7 5. Any person who is sick or in quarantine may not enter into court areas.
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9 6. This Order shall be reviewed on a weekly basis and may be modified as
10 necessary to address the ongoing state of emergency.

11 Dated this 9 day of October, 2020.

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15 Brian K. Sanderson, Presiding Judge
16 Yakima County District Court
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