

IN THE SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURTS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

In Re:

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION
LIMITING COURT OPERATIONS
RESULTING FROM PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

ORDER SUPPLEMENTING GR21
ORDER ENTERED MARCH 16, 2020
(SUPERIOR COURT ONLY)

WHEREAS, the state and this county are experiencing a rapid increase in the numbers of people showing symptoms of and being diagnosed with the current strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is known to be highly contagious and easily transmitted in enclosed spaces like courtrooms and jury rooms of this court; and

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency has been declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Washington, the Board of County Commissioners for Yakima County and the City Council for the City of Yakima due to the Covid-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Yakima County Superior Court and Yakima County District Court have consulted with the Yakima County Health Department concerning the current status of the COVID-19 virus as well as recommendations from the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control concerning attempts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued AMENDED ORDER No. 25700-B-607, filed March 20, 2020, suspending all criminal jury trials until

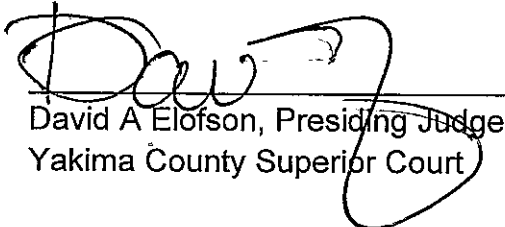
after April 24, 2020, setting a new commencement date of April 25, 2020 for said criminal jury trials suspended; and

Whereas, Yakima County GENERAL ORDER I, continued all triage hearings previously set for March 20, 2020 and March 27, 2020 to April 3, 2020, which is now inconsistent with Washington State Supreme Court AMENDED ORDER entered March 20, 2020

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All triage hearings set for April 3, 2020, April 10, 2020, April 17, 2020 and April 24, 2020 are hereby continued to Friday, May 1, 2020 at 9:00 am.
2. Counsel for each defendant awaiting trial is highly encouraged to set realistic jury trial dates by agreed order of continuance, signed by the attorneys and the defendant. Said order may be presented ex parte to the presiding criminal court judge for signature.
3. The Superior Court strikes, sua sponte, all hearings set for 9:00 am on May 1, 2020, except triage hearings. Counsel may note these hearings at other times and dates.
4. This Order is subject to further modification dependent upon the spread of the COVID-19 virus and subsequent orders from the Washington State Supreme Court.

DATED this 30th day of March, 2020.


David A. Eloffson, Presiding Judge
Yakima County Superior Court