IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

In Re: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION LIMITING COURT OPERATIONS RESULTING FROM PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	**GENERAL ORDER NO. 4** **ORDER SUPPLEMENTING ORDERS ENTERED MARCH 16, 2020 AND MARCH 30, 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

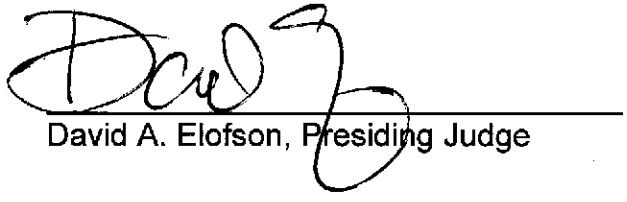
WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has issued SECOND REVISED AND EXTENDED ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS No.

25700-B-618, filed April 29, 2020, suspending all jury trials until at least July 6, 2020, and allowing all criminal and juvenile offender matters to be continued until after June 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All Superior Court criminal hearings set in May 2020 are struck, except that preliminary appearance hearings, arraignments, change of plea hearings for in-custody defendants, and special-set change of plea hearings for out-of-custody defendants may be scheduled and heard.
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. 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 1st day of May, 2020.



David A. Elofson, Presiding Judge