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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC
HEALTH

GENERAL ORDER 2022-02

**Resumption of In-person
Hearings in Grays Harbor
County Superior Court**

WHEREAS, this Court has issued several General Orders since March 12, 2020 to respond to the health emergency and to mitigate the effect of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the infection rate for COVID-19 in Grays Harbor County has dramatically decreased from March 1, 2022 to the present date, which has decreased the risk of infection for all persons who are employed at the courthouse or who enter the courthouse to conduct any type of business;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Effective May 2, 2022, all Monday motion dockets, except for the criminal docket, will be conducted in-person. This shall apply to attorneys, litigants and witnesses.
2. The Dependency docket, Therapeutic Court dockets and the Juvenile Court docket will be conducted in-person beginning the week of May 2, 2022.
3. All Civil and Domestic hearings and trials will be conducted in-person effective May 2, 2022.
4. The Monday Criminal docket will be conducted via Zoom until further notice, except for sentencing and change of plea hearings, which shall be conducted in-person. Defendants shall appear via Zoom; Prosecutor and Defense counsel shall be in person for all criminal hearings and prepared to hand up original orders for each case. The defendant and his or her attorney must be present in court for any sentencing or change of plea, effective May 2, 2022. Special set hearings such as 3.5/3.6 or motions in limine will require the defendant and counsel to be in the courtroom, in-person. Jury trials will be conducted in-person at Satsop until June 30, 2022.

- 1 5. Family members, friends and spectators will not be permitted in the courtroom during the
2 Monday Criminal docket. Anyone wishing to observe the criminal docket may do so via
3 Zoom or YouTube. **It will be the responsibility of each attorney to notify his or her**
4 **clients regarding these changes.**
- 5 6. The Court Administrator will begin to assign dates for jury trials in Civil cases upon the
6 filing of a proper Request for Trial Setting and payment of the jury fee.
- 7 7. ITA Court dockets will remain virtual indefinitely. Defense counsel shall be in person at
8 the facility to meet with clients and to attend all hearings.
- 9 8. Submission of ex parte orders to Court Administration will no longer be permitted.
- 10 9. Any person who cannot appear in person for reasons related to the COVID pandemic
11 may request permission to appear remotely. All such requests must be made in writing
12 on a form available through the Court Administrator's office.
- 13 10. The following safety protocols previously implemented by this Court shall remain in
14 effect:
- 15 a. No person may enter the courthouse without a face mask. Face masks or face
16 coverings must be worn at all times in all public areas and courtrooms within the
17 courthouse. Face shields are not approved by the Washington State Department of
18 Health. All court employees and courtroom staff shall wear masks when working
19 in one of the courtrooms.
 - 20 b. Persons who are sick or in quarantine will not be permitted to enter the
21 Courthouse.
 - 22 c. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands
23 frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.
 - 24 d. Individuals actively participating in a court proceeding shall remove their masks
25 when addressing the Court. Attorneys and litigants shall address the Court from
26 behind the counsel tables.
 - e. Social distancing will no longer be required.

DATED this 20th day of April, 2022.

Katherine L. Svoboda
KATHERINE L. SVOBODA
ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE