

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF KENT,
COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF)	NO. 2024-1
THE COURTS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)	
SERVICE OUTAGE)	AOC DISRUPTION IN
_____)	SERVICES

WHEREAS on November 3, 2024, the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) notified courts across the State of Washington that a significant disruption had occurred to information systems that are hosted by the AOC due to “unauthorized activity on the Washington Courts network”.

WHEREAS Washington Courts, including the Kent Municipal Court, are unable to access any systems or databases hosted by AOC including but not limited to the Judicial Information System (JIS) and the Abstract of Driving Record (ADR), and therefore have limited or no access to Washington State case information, Washington State criminal history, Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) records, and Washington State Protection Order history;

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington requires that judicial officers consult certain databases prior to entering certain orders;

WHEREAS, the disruption to AOC systems has had a significant impact on court operations and AOC has not identified a date on which access to all systems will resume;

WHEREAS, because emergency procedures that have been implemented are time consuming and require additional resources, the Court must take steps to limit its operations and modify its processes to ensure that the most time sensitive matters can proceed without delay;

WHEREAS, the Kent Municipal Court has limited access to NCIC/III nationwide criminal histories through the prosecuting attorney;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024 the Washington State Supreme Court promulgated Emergency Administrative Order No. 25700-B-720 allowing Washington Courts to expand or extend time rules on criminal cases regarding filing, speedy trial, sentencing, and out of custody arraignments, and speedy infraction filings, hearings, and disposition, if the unavailability of the AOC networks and databases hinders the local court’s ability to meet said deadlines or process filings submitted by litigants, and allowing courts to use other databases to get information not available via JIS or DOL as required by statute;

WHEREAS, the following expansion and extensions of rules are necessary because of the unavailability of the AOC networks and databases in order for the Kent Municipal Court to meet deadlines, process filings submitted by litigants, and effectively decide cases;

NOW THEREFORE, in order to continue the essential work of the Kent Municipal Court during the AOC system disruption, the Kent Municipal Court adopts the following rules and procedures immediately and, on an emergency basis;

COURT OPERATIONS

The Kent Municipal Court is currently operating with limited services until further notice.

All court rules, policies, procedures, and statutes regarding the posting of payments are suspended until the AOC judicial information systems are restored.

Persons scheduled for a proceeding, should attend court on your scheduled date and time.

Persons having probation appointments and alcohol/drug testing should attend their scheduled appointments and appear at all testing as scheduled.

The court's service counters will remain open but with limited services. We encourage customers to call ahead at 253-856-5730 before visiting in person to confirm if their needs can be met.

SUSPENDED COURT RULES

1. All court rules, policies, and procedures regarding filing, scheduling, docketing, and transmitting information to AOC are extended by 14 days from the date of this order or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.
2. All time requirements of CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, CrRLJ 4.7, IRLJ 2.1, IRLJ 2.6 (both civil infractions and vehicle related violations) and any other court rule, policy or procedure governing 'time' is hereby extended for 14 days from the date of this order or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.

AFFECTED CASE TYPES

Because of the inability to access certain information systems, the Court may elect not to act on the following types of motions/petitions for at least 14 days from the date of this order or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later:

1. Granting and/or reviewing compliance of a Deferred Finding on an Infraction
2. Granting of a Deferred Prosecution
3. Any other motion/petition that cannot statutorily be decided without a review of an AOC system or database that cannot currently be accessed.

The court reserves the right, with the input of counsel, to proceed with court proceedings without obtaining the required information from the judicial information system, networks and/or databases hosted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, by seeking other sources for the required information.

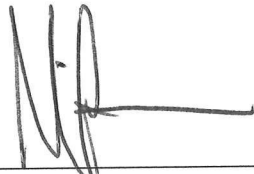
DISCRETION TO CONTINUE HEARINGS

The Court relies on AOC informational systems when ruling on many matters, even when it is not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains discretion to continue a motion hearing for which the judicial officer lacks vital information based on the AOC outage and the court has either (1) elected not to seek information from other sources and/or where (2) information from other sources is not available. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Arraignment hearings
2. Sentencing hearings
3. Sentence Compliance and/or other Review hearings
4. Infraction hearings
5. Deferred Prosecution petitions
6. Deferred Finding Infraction petitions/requests

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that this Order will take effect on November 13, 2024, and will remain in effect until further order of the court.

Dated November 13, 2024.



Michael R. Frans, Presiding Judge