

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT

IN THE MATTER OF ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 ) NO. 20-1  
OUTBREAK )

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, The Commissioners of Skagit County have also declared a state of emergency in Skagit County due to the same public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to this Court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Anyone showing signs of illness or feeling ill SHALL NOT enter the Skagit County Superior Court Courtrooms or Superior Court offices.
2. Persons in the high-risk categories for COVID-19 are encouraged to avail themselves of the policies in this order. The high-risk categories include:
  - People over 60 years of age
  - People with underlying health conditions, including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - People with weakened immune systems
  - Pregnant women
3. Individuals who cannot appear due to illness or who wish not to appear due to at-risk status SHALL contact the appropriate person/entity to request other

arrangements be made related to their court business. Those persons who are represented SHALL contact their attorney. Persons who are unrepresented SHALL contact the Superior Court at telephone number (360) 416-1200.

4. Until further notice the Court will not confirm any jury trials involving juries of twelve. Any and all cases involving a jury trial with twelve jurors that have been confirmed are hereby continued. This determination shall be reviewed every two weeks starting March 16, 2020 and shall be rescinded at such time as the Court determines it is no longer necessary.
5. Jury trials involving juries of six shall be allowed to proceed until further notice. Such trials shall be suspended in the event the Court determines that current information from the County Health Department, Center on Disease Control of World Health Organization indicate that such trials cannot safely be held taking into consideration the limitations of the Superior Court facility.
6. The Court reserves the right to modify or cancel any Court calendar upon short notice to accommodate any concerns regarding courtroom crowding and to facilitate reduction in courtroom population.
7. Attorneys and pro-se litigants are encouraged to note for hearing only those matters they believe to be emergent. Attorneys and pro-se litigants should use their best judgment in deciding whether a matter is emergent taking into consideration the current public health emergency noted above.
8. Attorneys and pro-se litigants are encouraged to make use of the telephonic attendance opportunities provided by Court Call. Court Call has agreed to charge a reduced rate for this service in light of the current public health situation. Court Call may be arranged by calling (360) 416-1200 no less than two days before the hearing.

DATED this 12th day of March, 2020.



David A. Svaren  
Presiding Judge