

IN THE KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE CITIES OF AUBURN, BELLEVUE, BEAUX
ARTS, BURIEN, COVINGTON, DUVALL, KENMORE, REDMOND, SAMMAMISH,
SHORELINE, SKYKOMISH AND VASHON ISLAND

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY)	EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
HEALTH.)	
)	NO. 4-2020

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in King County:

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID – 19); and, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 Chief Justice Debra Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, during the state of emergency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with these recommendations, Governor Inslee has ordered all schools, business, faith-based organizations, and all other non-essential public venues to be closed, and for all who can to remain at home or work from home; and,

WHEREAS, the King County District Court is a high volume court that handles more than 100,000 cases per year and has several courthouse locations where it

is not possible to adequately follow public health guidelines regarding cleaning and social distancing; and, due to public health recommendations regarding vulnerable persons remaining in isolation, the King County District Court has significantly reduced staff and judicial resources, it is therefore necessary for the King County District Court to make modifications to court operations to allow for the orderly transition to a system of work that will allow for implementation of systems and procedures that will meet the directive of the Washington State Supreme Court and the current public health guidelines; and the County Public Health Order; and,

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020 and March 20, 2020, Chief Justice Stephens of the Washington State Supreme Court issued Order Nos. 25700-B-606 and 25700-B-607, further authorized and ordered a reduction of Court Operations; and,

Therefore, it is hereby Ordered that:

A. The King County District Court's previously issued Emergency Administrative Orders remain in effect except where superseded by this Order. This Order is effective March 23, 2020 until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court.

B. King County District Court will hear in-custody criminal matters, including for Mental Health and Veteran's Court, where charges were brought by the State of Washington at the King County Correctional Facility (Seattle Jail) and Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, Rm GB only. The following hearings shall also be scheduled on these same calendars:

1. Second appearance returns where the defendant is out of custody
2. Orders to Surrender Firearms issued on criminal cases that require a review hearing
3. All Competency Order Hearings pursuant to Chapter 10.77 RCW for persons who are in custody

C Effective March 23, 2020, SCORE and other City in-custody matters will be heard in the following locations:

1. City of Shoreline, Kenmore, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Duvall, Skykomish, and Beaux Arts at the Bellevue Courthouse.
2. City of Auburn, Burien, and Covington at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent.

Out of custody second appearances and out of custody Order to Surrender Firearms Review Hearings for Orders to Surrender on criminal cases only will be scheduled at the appropriate City in-custody calendar time at the above locations.

Note: The Bellevue Courthouse will have limited access for the general public. Signs will be posted at the entrance with instructions. In all locations, defendants will appear at their hearings via video conference only. No defendants will be transported to court.

D. All other out of custody criminal matters will be scheduled or rescheduled to a date after April 24th, 2020. Emergency matters may be filed as set forth in paragraph G of this Order. A judge will review and determine whether a hearing will be set.

E. Effective March 23, 2020, the Seattle, Maleng Regional Justice Center, and Bellevue Courthouse Clerk's Offices will be open between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, staff permitting, for limited customer service assistance. During this time, new Petitions for Anti-harassment or Stalking Orders will be accepted and reviewed to determine if an emergency hearing is warranted or the case will be continued until after April 24, 2020 as directed by the Washington State Supreme Court. Hearings will be heard via video or telephone if available. If a Review Hearing on an Order to Surrender Weapons is needed, it should be set by the Judge on the Full Hearing Order date. All hearings should be conducted via video or telephonically unless the Judge finds it is impossible to do so.

New Petitions for Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Protections Orders should be filed in King County Superior Court until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court due to District Court staffing shortages.

The public is encouraged to check the website or call 206-205-9200 to make sure the courthouse location will be open before coming in.

F. Civil and e-filing: Civil King County District Court's on-line e-filing portal will remain closed and the King County District Court's mandatory e-filing rule is suspended until April 27, 2020 or until further Order of the Court. Those matters previously filed will be processed as staff availability allows. For filing of time-sensitive Small Claims or other Civil matters please refer to paragraph G. All previously scheduled Civil and Small claims hearings are cancelled through at least April 24, 2020. Small Claims hearings will be rescheduled by the court and a new hearing date mailed. For Civil Hearings noted by the parties, the matter may re-noted after the Court resumes normal operations.

G. Essential Criminal Complaints, Agreed Criminal Motions, time sensitive Civil Complaints where the statute of limitations will expire within 90 days, Motions for Extension of Judgment, and all other Emergency Motions of a time sensitive nature related to Criminal or Civil Matters, including vehicle impounds where the vehicle is still in impound and animal or property seizure hearings will be accepted and reviewed via email. All such filings should be emailed to: KCDCCourtFilings@Kingcounty.gov.

Filings sent to other email addresses may not get reviewed. The parties will be notified via mail or telephone (a contact telephone number should be included with all requests), if a hearing is set.

Civil matters requiring a filing fee will be accepted for review without payment. The party will be required to pay the appropriate filing fee if the matter is accepted for processing. All required paperwork must be filed with requested Motions and Orders. New Civil Complaints and Motions for Extension of Judgment must set forth the statute of limitations expiration (Civil Complaints) and include all other required documents in order to be accepted. All filings will be returned if not in compliance. All matters granted a hearing will be heard by telephone or video unless unavailable.

H. The King County District Court phone line will remain open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until further Order of the Court.

I. SEARCH WARRANTS: King County District Court will continue its After Hours Search Warrant procedures. Law enforcement may call the court at 206-205-9200, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30, for judicial review of search warrants. Law Enforcement shall file search warrant returns at the following email address: KCDCSearchWarrants@kingcounty.gov through April 24, 2020 or further Order of the Court.

J. PROBATION AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING: King County District Court is suspending all probation and compliance monitoring (including for City of Bellevue cases) on all post disposition matters until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court. Any supervision/jurisdictional time will be tolled during this suspension. Defendants with scheduled probation appointments prior to that time will be rescheduled and new notice will be mailed.

K. INFRACTIONS: King County District Court will continue to accept all on-line Law Enforcement filings of Infractions. Persons requesting in-person hearings will be reset at least 120 days out and notice will be mailed. All in-person hearings scheduled prior to April 27, 2020 will be rescheduled and new notice mailed. The King County District Court will continue to process Contested and Mitigation matters filed on-line or by mail as staffing allows. Camera tickets, parking tickets, false alarm, and tow hearings where the car is not still in impound will also be rescheduled to a future date and new notice mailed.

L. All King County District Court Community Court operations are closed until April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court. All hearings scheduled from March 17, 2020 through April 24, 2020 will be rescheduled and notice will be mailed.

M. All other King County Courthouse locations (Northeast, Issaquah, Shoreline, Auburn, Vashon, and Burien) will remain closed until at least April 27, 2020 or further Order of the Court.

Consistent with the Washington Supreme Court's order, for all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, all delays/continuances made under Emergency Administrative Order 1 dated March 12, 2020 (1-2020), Emergency Administrative Order 2 dated March 16, 2020 (2-2020) and Emergency Administrative Order 3 dated March 19, 2020 (3-2020) and this order (4-2020) are made for good cause in light of this ongoing health crisis and shall be excluded periods for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule. The Court finds that COVID - 19 is a serious danger to the public at large and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance beyond the control of the Court and the parties that appear before the court.

It is Further Ordered that for all hearings delayed by this order will be rescheduled and notices will be mailed to the parties of the next scheduled hearing date via US mail at their last known address. Any party needing to update their mailing address should contact the court clerk at (206) 205-9200.

This order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

DATED this 20 day of March, 2020


Assistant Presiding Judge on behalf of
Chief Presiding Judge Tucker