

FILED
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MAR 11 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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7 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**
8 **IN AND FOR KING COUNTY**

9 IN THE MATTER OF
10 THE RESPONSE BY
11 KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
12 TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH
13 EMERGENCY IN WASHINGTON
14 STATE

NO. 20-0-12050-5

EMERGENCY ORDER #1
ORDER ON EXPANDED CRITERIA
FOR EXCUSING JURORS BASED
UPON PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

15 This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State.

16 1. On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to
17 the public health emergency posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

18 2. On March 4, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens
19 entered an Emergency Order that states, in part, as follows:
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21 WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in these
22 counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their regular operations; and
23 WHEREAS, the presiding judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively
24 administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including authority to adopt,
25 modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions.
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to
ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public, It IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:
I. The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized to adopt, modify, and
suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court

Hon. Jim Rogers
King County Superior Court
Dept. 45
516 3rd Avenue
KCC-SC-0203
Seattle, Washington 98104

1 operations, as warranted to address the current public health emergency;
2 2. Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or
3 modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of the
4 Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
5 3. Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an
6 administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the affected
7 court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as practicable.

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9 3. The King County Public Health and the Center for Disease Control have both
10 recently recommended that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away
11 from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people and
12 large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. This includes concert venues,
13 conventions, sporting events, and crowded social gatherings. These health officials identify
14 people at high risk as including people:

- 15 • Over 60 years of age
- 16 • With underlying health conditions including include heart disease, lung disease, or
17 diabetes
- 18 • With weakened immune systems
- 19 • Who are pregnant

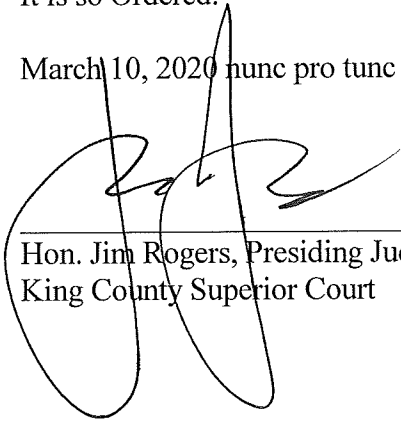
20 4. Jury Service in the King County Superior Court necessarily involves congregating in
21 relatively close proximity groups of 200 or more persons who come to court in response to a
22 summons.

23 Therefore, IT IS ORDERED under the authority by Chief Justice Stephens' Order and the
24 authority as a Presiding Judge for King County that the Superior Court shall enact policies to
25 automatically excuse persons from jury service who are summoned and fit the public health
criteria for high risk populations.

1 At a minimum, all Judges and jury room personnel shall follow this policy and it shall be
2 published in all usual locations.

3 It is so Ordered.

4 March 10, 2020 nunc pro tunc to March 8, 2020.

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8 Hon. Jim Rogers, Presiding Judge
9 King County Superior Court
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