

March 19, 2020

Greetings,

At approximately 7:40 pm last night I received the attached Order from The Supreme Court of Washington.

I have read the Order a handful of times and am still digesting it. For civil practitioners, the following provisions are pertinent:

- 1.) All civil jury trials shall be suspended until after April 24, 2020.
- 2.) All non-emergency civil matters shall be continued until after April 24, 2020.
- 3.) All emergency matters that must be heard before April 24, 2020, must be heard by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance unless impossible.
- 14.) The Court recognizes that there are procedural issues in juvenile, dependency, involuntary commitment, child support, and other matters that may not be encompassed in this Order. Nothing in the Order limits other interested parties in submitting similar orders tailored to the unique circumstances of those matters and any other matters not contemplated by this Order; however, parties are strongly encouraged to contemplate the issues addressed in this Order.

In addition to this Order, I understand Governor Inslee has announced a 30-day statewide moratorium on evictions of residential tenants for the sole basis of non-payment of rent.

Frank and I contemplated the need for additional video conferencing capabilities. Earlier this week we put plans in motion to obtain some additional equipment for appearing remotely. One major concern I have about this is the County bandwidth capabilities. I understand that may be an issue.

I don't know how immediate scheduling will look in light of this Order. While we have traditional calendaring spots that you are all aware of, I can foresee making some changes. I want to talk with Jennifer Kluver in more detail about that.

Finally, the big question. **What qualifies as an "emergency matter"?**

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on that and other issues that come to mind.

Yours, Kevin

Kevin Hull
Presiding Judge
Kitsap County Superior Court