

***An Updated Message from the Kitsap County Superior, Juvenile and District Courts
Instituting Additional Responsive Measures to COVID-19
March 13, 2020***

After consulting with the Kitsap County Public Health Department, the Kitsap County Superior, Juvenile and District Courts are introducing changes to regular court operations in conjunction with efforts to contain COVID-19. Please know that these actions are taken with a continuing eye towards balancing the Courts' responsibilities for providing judicial and administrative services while cultivating a safe and healthy environment for citizens, attorneys, jurors, and Courthouse employees.

With this in mind, and effective March 16, 2020, the Courts are initiating the following temporary changes:

- Criminal and civil jury trials which have not commenced prior to March 16, 2020 will be continued for a period of 28 days from the dates on which they are set. (See accompanying Emergency Order). Jury trials already in progress will remain in progress until verdicts are reached;
- Parties and counsel in non-criminal matters are strongly encouraged to consider the necessity of scheduling hearings on weekly motion calendars through the end of April 2020;
- Parties and counsel are encouraged to consider alternative means of appearing (e.g., telephonically) for those matters which are already scheduled and/or time-sensitive;
- Weekly domestic relations calendars will be divided between two judicial officers to ensure advisable social distancing is employed in large volume courtrooms; and,
- Parties and counsel in family law matters are encouraged to present formal proof by declaration rather than in-person Ex Parte appearances. Documents may be emailed to JKliver@co.kitsap.wa.us.

Additionally, the Courts urge our citizens to continue to heed the Public Health Department's recommendations regarding focused hygiene, self-quarantine and social distancing, particularly as related to high-risk members of our community, including:

- People who are 60 years of age or older;
- People with compromised immune systems;
- People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease or diabetes;
- People who are pregnant; and,
- People who suddenly experience a fever of 100.4 degrees, a dry cough, overwhelming fatigue, and/or shortness of breath.

The Superior, Juvenile and District Courts are committed to doing everything necessary to ensure a healthy and accessible courthouse environment. If you or your client(s) meet any of the high-risk conditions noted above but fear more negative consequences for not appearing at your scheduled hearing(s), please contact the individual court in advance of your appearance in the Courthouse to discuss alternatives. Kitsap County Superior Court may be contacted at SuperiorCourt@co.kitsap.wa.us or 360-337-7140. Kitsap County District Court may be contacted at kcdc@co.kitsap.wa.us or 360-337-7109.

Thank you for your continuing patience and support as we work together and do our part in slowing the spread of this virus.