

March 14, 2020

Greetings,

On behalf of the entire Kitsap County Superior Court Bench, I want to thank you for your patience and perseverance as we work together through the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure that the citizens of Kitsap County have access to judicial officers and Courthouse staff, for at least the foreseeable future it will not be business as usual at the Kitsap County Courthouse.

Under the present circumstances, the Kitsap County Superior Court is in no position to dictate to anyone who may seek to self-quarantine that they must appear in-person at the Courthouse. We understand that even those who may not be exhibiting symptoms may have real and present concerns about exposure. Likewise, in light of school closures and other restrictive measures (being taken both publicly and privately), appearing in-person at the Courthouse for your matters may be an impossibility. If you choose to not appear in-person for a matter (whatever it may be) we will not inquire as to why.

If you are not going to be appearing at the Courthouse for a hearing, an initial step should be that you advise the necessary individuals that may be involved in the case (such as opposing counsel, GAL's, guardians and / or the party themselves if they do not have representation). In other words, those individuals that need to know.

We also request that you keep the Court advised as to how the Court can reach you if you are not going to be appearing in-person. The best method for this is via email at [SuperiorCourt@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:SuperiorCourt@co.kitsap.wa.us). Our phone number is (360) 337-7140.

As you are all aware, mandates from government entities and recommendations from epidemiologists are constantly being updated. I say this because what we are doing on Monday may not be what we are doing on Friday. You can expect some chaos and frustration. But you can also expect that we will do our best to keep you informed as to any changes we may need to make in order to adapt to this fluid situation.

Please continue to practice appropriate social distancing and regular hand washing while in the Courthouse.

Yours, Kevin

Kevin Hull, Presiding Judge  
Kitsap County Superior Court

