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ALISON H. SONNTAG

**KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

**No. 2020-19
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RE: JUVENILE DEPENDENCY REVIEW
HEARINGS**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Given there are a significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in Washington, the severity of the risk posed to the public, the recommendations of the Washington State Health Department, and the authority granted by Order No. 25700-B-602 ¶1 (Mar. 4, 2020), No. 25700-B607 ¶15 (amended Mar. 20, 2020), No. 25700-B-614 ¶11 (Apr. 3, 2020), and No. 25700-B-615 (April 13,2020), additional immediate action by the Kitsap County Superior Court is required.

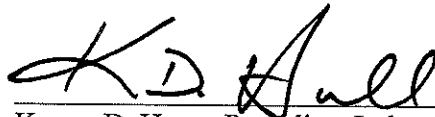
Whereas this Court issued Emergency Administrative Order Re Dependency Court, Order No. 2020-2 on March 16, 2020 and Correspondence on March 22, 2020, and the United States Department of Health & Human Services issued a letter to Child Welfare Legal and Judicial Leaders on March 27, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that effective immediately and until further Order of the Court –

1. Previous Orders- All previous Emergency Administrative Orders and Correspondence issued by this Court remain in full effect except where modified below.
2. Review Hearings:
 - a. Court reports, visit plans, submissions, etc.: The Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (Department) court report and any submissions (i.e. visit plans, neuropsychological evaluations, etc.) will be electronically filed (e-file) and electronically served (e-serve) on all parties of record at least 10 calendar days prior to the review hearing.
 - b. Proposed Review Hearing Orders: The Attorney General's Office (AGO) will e-serve a proposed review hearing order (RHO) to all parties of record no later than 4:30 p.m. one (1) week before the hearing. (i.e. proposed RHOs for Monday hearings will be circulated by no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday prior; proposed RHOs for Wednesday hearings will be circulated by no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday prior.)
 - c. Response to Department's submissions: Written responsive documentation shall be e-filed and served to parties of record by 4:30pm two days prior to the hearing. Written responses are not required, and parties may still present their position on the record during the hearing.
 - i. No opposition to dependency review hearing: If all parties indicate consent or no position to the AGO prior to the hearing, then the proposed RHO previously circulated by the AGO shall be the final RHO of the court and submitted electronically *ex parte* before the review hearing. Neither original nor electronic signatures by attorneys are needed if not available. The body of the e-mail should indicate that the hearing should be stricken.

- ii. No opposition to permanency plan review hearing: If parties reach an agreed RHO for a permanency plan review hearing (including first dependency review hearings serving as permanency plan review hearings), the AGO should notify the designated clerk of the agreed RHO, include the agreed RHO, and indicate that the hearing still needs to be called for purposes of IV-E. All parties, other than the AGO, may waive their presence at this hearing by signing or indicating electronic acceptance of the RHO.
 - iii. Hearings: If no agreement is reached, a review hearing shall occur as scheduled and the final RHO will be submitted to the court by no later than 4:30 p.m. the day following the docket. (i.e., Monday final RHOs submitted by Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday final RHOs submitted by Thursday at 4:30 p.m.)
 - iv. Hearings held under (2)(c)(ii) and (iii) above shall be held by Zoom or any other video or telephonic means as facilitated by the court.
3. The process articulated in paragraph 2 above applies to all review hearings, including the legally free and extended foster care dockets.

DATED – APRIL 14, 2020



KEVIN D. HULL, Presiding Judge
Kitsap County Superior Court