

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT, and
IN THE MUNICIPAL COURTS OF ANACORTES, BURLINGTON, and MOUNT VERNON
STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF

EMERGENCY ORDER RE: COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 20-1

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the corona virus disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS the Commissioners of Skagit County have declared a state of emergency in Skagit County due to COVID-10; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted, to address the current state of emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Anyone showing signs of illness or feeling ill **shall not** enter the Skagit County District Court building, courtroom, or court offices or the building, courtroom, or court offices of the Anacortes, Burlington, or Mount Vernon Municipal Courts.
2. Persons in the high risk categories for COVID-19 are encouraged to strictly follow the policies in this order. The high risk categories are:
 - a. People over the age of 60.
 - b. People with underlying health conditions including but not limited to heart disease, high blood pressure, lung disease, COPD, or diabetes.
 - c. People with weakened immune systems.
 - d. Pregnant women.

3. Individuals who cannot appear in person for court business due to illness or who wish not to appear in person for court business **shall** contact the appropriate person/entity to request other arrangements be made related to their court business. Those persons who are represented by counsel **shall** contact their attorney. Persons who are appearing pro se (not represented by an attorney) shall contact:
 - Skagit County District Court at (360) 416-1250
 - Anacortes Municipal Court at (360) 293-1913
 - Burlington Municipal Court at (360) 755-0492
 - Mount Vernon Municipal Court at (360) 336-6205
4. Until further notice, the Court will not confirm jury trials for either civil or criminal cases. This determination shall be reviewed every two weeks starting March 16, 2020 and shall be rescinded at such time as the Court determines it is no longer necessary.
5. The Court reserves the right to modify or cancel any court calendar upon short notice to accommodate any concerns regarding courtroom crowding and to facilitate reduction in courtroom population.
6. Attorneys and pro se litigants are encouraged to note for hearing only those matters they believe to be emergencies. Attorneys and pro se litigants should use their best judgment in deciding whether a matter is an emergency, taking into account the current public health emergency.
7. Notice of calendar cancellations and other specific actions taken will appear on the District Court section of the Skagit County web site and on the corresponding municipal court websites.

DATED this 13th day of March, 2020



Dianne Edmonds Goddard,
Presiding Judge