

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT

IN THE MATTER OF) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19) NO. 20-9-A
OUTBREAK)

WHEREAS, An identified public health emergency exists due to the current outbreak of the Novel Corona virus which emergency has been previously identified in this Court's Emergency Administrative Order 20-8-B; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County and the nation in general is currently experiencing a serious surge in transmission of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has issued a new directive seriously restricting retail and other activities which directive is intended to slow the exponential growth in COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, Although Courts are exempted from the Governor's directive, nonetheless the Court intends to honor the intent of said directive by taking actions to reduce opportunities for transmission of the COVID-19 virus in the Court's realm;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **EFFECTIVE DATE** This Order becomes effective upon signing and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by Court Order.
2. **RELATIONSHIP TO EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-8-B** For so long as this Order is in effect, it will supersede Administrative Order 20-8-B with respect to matters set forth herein. In all other respects Administrative Order 20-8-B shall be interpreted as supplementary to this Order.
3. **JURY TRIALS** Until further notice the Court will not confirm any jury trials. Jury trial dates for any and all cases with an assigned jury trial date prior to January 15, 2021 are hereby stricken. Counsel on non-criminal matters shall re-note said matters for trial assignment. Counsel on criminal matters shall provide proposed orders with new dates, with time for trial as not before February 15, 2021 for in-

custody defendants and not before March 15, 2021 for out-of-custody defendants. A continuance of these criminal trials is required in the administration of justice. Based upon the court's finding that the serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to continue criminal jury trials, and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under CrR 3.3(e)(8), the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date is EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial. CrR 3.3(e)(3).

4. **TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS** Trials in matters involving Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights are suspended until January 15, 2021. Further, the Court finds that the COVID-19 pandemic is good cause under RCW 13.34.145 (5) (a) not to order DCYF to file a petition to terminate parental rights.
5. **LIMITATION ON CIVIL MATTERS** Residential Unlawful Detainer Hearings are suspended until January 1, 2021 with the exception of those cases permitted under Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-19.4.
(https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/proc_20-19.4.pdf) Any permitted Unlawful Detainer hearings shall be conducted by video. Similarly Motions for orders seeking payment on writs of garnishment involving consumer debt will not be heard until further notice. Any motion not in compliance with these limitations set forth in this order will be stricken.
6. **SUSPENSION OF RULES** This Order modifies or suspends any and all court rules, both Local Court Rules and State Court Rules which are inconsistent with the terms set forth herein.

DATED this 23rd day of November, 2020.



David A. Svaren
Presiding Judge