

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER)
THE EXIGENT)
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED)
BY COVID-19 AND)
RELATED CORONAVIRUS)
_____)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2020 - 07
COVID-19 EMERGENCY LIMITED
COURT CLOSURE

PURSUANT TO orders No. 25700-B-602, No. 25700-B-606 and No. 25700-B-615 of The Supreme Court of Washington and GR 21, as Presiding Judge of the Seattle Municipal Court, in the interest of both public safety and public health during the COVID-19 public health crisis and the health and safety of potentially exposed court employees, court partners and the public;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court will continue emergency limited court closure operations consolidated to in-custody only appearances at Courtroom 2 of the King County Jail in accordance with the direction provided in orders No. 25700-B-606 and No. 25700-B-615 of The Supreme Court of Washington and Seattle Municipal GAO 2020-06. This in-custody only calendar will run Monday through Saturday until further order of the Court.
2. Pursuant to direction provided in orders No. 25700-B-606 and No. 25700-B-615 of The Supreme Court of Washington and in the interest of the safety of the public, attorneys and court employees, defendant signatures shall not be required on any forms, notices, orders or pleas handled at the consolidated in-custody calendar at Courtroom 2 of the King County Jail.
3. Since the Court has been operating under an emergency court closure since March 16, 2020, all new out of custody filings on criminal matters have been suspended. The filing date on out of custody criminal matters filed with the court on or after March 16, 2020, and up until the court resumes

regular operations, shall be the date the Court resumes regular operations. Good cause exists under CrR 4.1 and CrRLJ 4.1 to extend the arraignment dates as necessary in accordance with available calendar space when the Court resumes phasing in regular operations and calendars after opening. The new arraignment date shall be considered the initial commencement date for purposes of establishing the time for trial under CrR 3.3(c)(1) and CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1).

4. Given the uncertainty of when the court shall resume regular operations, and to avoid continually resetting hearings should the current emergency orders get extended past May 4, 2020, all out-of-custody hearings affected by this emergency court closure shall be cancelled. This includes all hearings set during the period of the court closure starting on March 16, 2020 and those currently set through July 31, 2020, including out-of-custody arraignments. This action will provide the Court with the ability to resume case setting in a deliberate manner at the time regular court operations resume. Once the court resumes regular operations, a new court date will be administratively selected, and the new court date shall be considered the initial commencement date for purposes of establishing the time for trial under CrR 3.3(c)(1) and CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1) on all cases. New notices will be mailed to the defendant and counsel of record at the time a hearing is rescheduled.
5. All jury trials affected by this emergency court closure shall remain suspended and all readiness and jury trial settings affected by this emergency court closure shall be cancelled. This includes all trial motion hearings, readiness hearings and jury trial settings set during the period of the court closure starting on March 16, 2020, and those currently set through July 31, 2020. This action will provide the Court with the ability to resume case setting in a deliberate manner at the time regular court

operations resume. At the time regular court operations resume, the Court shall determine when jury trials will resume, with priority given to in-custody matters set for trial. The court shall schedule a readiness hearing for all pending jury trials, and the date of the readiness hearing shall be the commencement date for purposes of establishing the time for trial under CrR 3.3(c)(1) and CrRLJ 3.3(c)(1). New notices will be mailed to the defendant and counsel of record at the time a hearing is rescheduled.

6. The Court may extend the time frames in this order as required by this continuing public health crisis and, if necessary, will do so by further order. This order and other applicable emergency general administrative orders may be deemed part of the record in affected cases for purposes of appeal without the need to file the orders in each case. This order supersedes the Court's previous general administrative orders.

DONE this 15 day of April, 2020


Willie Gregory, PRESIDING JUDGE