

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR KITTITAS COUNTY


IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC
HEALTH.

) EMERGENCY
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)
) Dated May 8, 2020

Due to public health concerns the Kittitas County Superior Court is temporarily closed to the general public. Although the general public is discouraged from visiting the Court, the Court does remain open to deal with issues involving domestic violence, threats to physical security, threats to loss of housing, or other emergencies. Attorneys or individuals with pending cases should review the attached appendix for further detail.

As the situation changes, the Court remains open to modifications to comply with this rapidly changing environment. Please review <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/courts/superior> for the most recent information.

DATED this 8th day of May, 2020.



Scott R. Sparks, Presiding Judge

APPENDIX

This matter comes before the Court on a public health emergency in the State of Washington.

FACTS

1. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID – 19). In response to said emergency the Superior Court is reducing operations to emergent matters;
2. The State and County are experiencing an increase in the numbers of people showing symptoms of and begin diagnosed with the current strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19. COVID-19 is known to be highly contagious and easily transmitted in public areas such as courtrooms;
3. On March 4, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency issued an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of trial courts in Washington State;
4. On April 29, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-619, which revised and extended their prior Order regarding court operations;
5. On March 6, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners for Kittitas County declared a state of emergency for Kittitas County in regard to COVID-19;
6. On March 11, 2020, Governor Inslee imposed additional restrictions prohibiting gatherings of more than 250 people within King, Snohomish, and Pierce County due to the danger of continued spread of the virus and the increasing danger the virus presents to the health care system in the region;
7. On March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee mandated closure of all Washington schools from March 17 through at least April 24, 2020 and extended a restriction on social gatherings of more than 250 people throughout the entire State of Washington;
8. On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee announced temporary closure of restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters, and banned any social gatherings over 50 people throughout the entire State of Washington;
9. On May 4, 2020, Governor Inslee extended his Stay Home Stay Healthy order thru the end of May 2020.

Whereas, as a result of said facts, the Court's operations have been modified **to decrease the necessity of people coming into the courtroom**, while still allowing the Court to conduct essential functions.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that effective immediately:

1. Kittitas County Superior Court will resume operations per the Supreme Court's Second Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations filed on April 29, 2020.

For the latest information on court operations visit: <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/courts/superior> as the Court's Order may be modified consistent with the Court's continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

Updated: May 8, 2020.