

FILED
COUNTY CLERK

2020 MAR 24 P 1:18

WHATCOM COUNTY
WASHINGTON

BY _____

Superior Court of Washington, County of Whatcom

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

**IN RE COURT ADMINISTRATION AND THE
MATTER OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC
HEALTH RISK**

No. 20-2-00001-37

**LIMITING HOURS OF COUNTY CLERK
OFFICE, SUPERIOR AND JUVENILE
ADMINISTRATOR**

WHEREAS, the state and this county are experiencing a rapid increase in the numbers of people showing symptoms of and being diagnosed with the current strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS COVID-19 is known to be highly contagious and easily transmitted in public areas such as courtrooms, and the City of Bellingham has indicated that gatherings of more than ten people should be avoided; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and the Whatcom County Executive has declared a Public Health Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

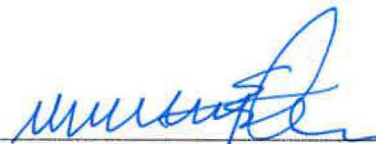
WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-607 granting this Court emergency authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency;

WHEREAS the Whatcom County Superior Court (including the Juvenile Division) and Superior Court Clerk have a combined administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2020:

- The Superior Court Clerk's Office will be open to the public only between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Monday-Friday. The Clerk's Office will continue to accept filings via mail;
- Family Law Facilitator will be closed to the public and all correspondence by telephone and email as appropriate;
- The Office of Assigned Counsel will remain open to the public by appointment only; however, petitions for protection orders shall be made available during Clerk's office operating hours. In the absence of the availability to screen, in custody criminal defendants shall be deemed initially eligible for public defense.
- Superior Court Pretrial Services shall be closed to the public and all services and check in, regardless services ordered, shall be by telephone or email. No PSA shall be administered at this time.
- Juvenile Court Administration and probation will be closed to the public except by scheduled appointments; however, staff will be available by telephone and email.
- Juvenile Detention remains open to accept and house juvenile detainees.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2020.



Deborra Garrett, Presiding Judge
for Robert E. Olson, Judge