

FILED
COUNTY CLERK

2020 JUN -1 A 8:32

WHATCOM COUNTY
WASHINGTON

BY _____

Superior Court of Washington, County of Whatcom

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 20-2-00001-37

**SECOND ORDER REGARDING HOURS
OF COUNTY CLERK OFFICE,
SUPERIOR AND JUVENILE COURT
ADMINISTRATION**

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 JUNE 1, 2020:

- The Superior Court Clerk's Office will be open to the public only between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- Family Law Facilitator remain 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 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 of services ordered, shall be by telephone or email. No PSA shall be administered at this time.
- Juvenile Court Administration and probation will be open to the public for court hearings and necessary scheduled appointments.
- Juvenile Detention remains open to accept and house juvenile detainees.

DATED this 2nd day of June, 2020.



Deborra Garrett, Presiding Judge