

**SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

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

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO.2 GENERAL EMERGENCY  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: COVID-19  
EMERGENCY COURT CLOSURE OF  
SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
SPOKANE VALLEY COURTHOUSE

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State and Spokane County:

- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee entered the “Stay Home, Stay Safe Order” statewide.
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the City of Spokane Valley Police Chief, Mark Werner, announced his intention to close the Spokane Valley Police Precinct Building located at 12710 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA to the public from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, until April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 due to COVID-19. The Spokane County District Court maintains a courtroom/courthouse location at that facility.
- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, President Donald Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced guidelines for the next fifteen (15) days to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those guidelines recommend limiting, as best as possible, all social gatherings to no more than ten (10) people.
- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee ordered a statewide shutdown of all restaurants, bars, entertainment and recreational facilities. Governor Inslee also prohibited the gathering of more than 50 people. Gatherings of less than 50 people are prohibited unless previous criteria for public health and social distancing are met.

NO.2 GENERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Spokane County District Court was informed that a Spokane County District Court (SCDC) employee had been exposed to COVID-19.
- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee ordered statewide school closure for six weeks amid the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens of 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 order, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency issued as an emergency order in response to the public health emergency that affects operation of trial courts in Washington State.
- On February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee declared a state-wide emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- Spokane County District Court's courtrooms are high-volume courtrooms and collectively handle more than 100,000 matters each year for both the County as well as cities that contract with the Court for District Court services. Therefore, it is necessary for the Spokane County District Court to make modifications to the court operations to allow for the orderly transition to a system of work that will allow for implementation of systems and procedures that will meet the concerns and directives required.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

- 1) Effective Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, through no earlier than Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the Spokane County District Court – Spokane Valley Courthouse located at 12710 East Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA shall be closed.
- 2) Any mandatory appearance during this emergency Court closure shall be continued and/or handled electronically and/or telephonically.
- 3) The Emergency Order No. 1 and Amendments shall go back into effect at the time this emergency court closure order is lifted.

For all hearings currently pending and for hearings on new cases filed during the pendency of this order that are delayed by effect of this order, the delay/continuance shall constitute an excluded period for purposes of Speedy Trial, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.4, IRLJ 2.6, and any other applicable court rule.

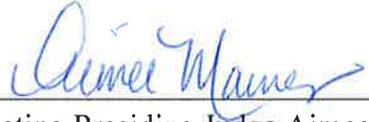
It is further ordered, all hearings delayed by this order will have notices mailed to the parties of the next scheduled hearing date via US mail. Any party needing to update their mailing address should contact the court clerk at (509) 477-4770 or via email at Criminal and Infraction Clerk's Office – [dccasemgmt@spokanecounty.org](mailto:dccasemgmt@spokanecounty.org)  
Civil Clerk's Office – [dccivil@spokanecounty.org](mailto:dccivil@spokanecounty.org)

For all hearings not continued by effect of this rule, telephonic and video hearings will be permitted to the greatest extent possible to encourage social distancing as recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and local public health officials.

All courthouse locations will remain open except for the Spokane Valley Courthouse location; however, the public is encouraged to contact the Court via telephone or email.

This order may be modified consistent with the Spokane County District Court's continual assessment of the needs of the community as well as the recommendations of public health officials.

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Presiding Judge Aimee Maurer