

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOKANE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE)
BY SPOKANE COUNTY DISTRICT)
COURT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH)
EMERGENCY (COVID-19))

NO. 16 AMENDMENT TO
EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 1
ORDER OF DECORUM

**EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

WHEREAS, this Court issued its Emergency Order No. 1 and Amendments to that Order Nos. 1-15,


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. The overall intent of this Order is to reduce the number of individuals needing to come to the Courthouse. To the extent possible, parties are strongly encouraged to appear remotely. However, the Court recognizes that not every hearing is able to be held remotely via Zoom or telephonically, and therefore may be occasions when a party will need to attend a hearing in person.
2. Any person who is physically ill or in quarantine shall not enter the Courthouse;
3. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is unpracticable;
4. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned by disinfectant or other approved method;

5. All persons entering a Spokane County District Court Courtroom shall be required to wear a mask, unless exempted under a previous order of this Court. Individuals *actively* participating in a court proceeding may remove their masks if they wish. The Court may also direct the removal of masks worn by active participants to facilitate clear communication and due process. “Active participant” includes those seated at counsel tables, witnesses, and judge.
6. For the reasons stated above, if possible, hearings should be conducted via Zoom. A person appearing by Zoom video conference is appearing in open court. As such, all rules and requirements applicable to in-person hearings equally apply to Zoom Hearings.
7. Individuals are expected and required to comply with the following Spokane County District Court Courtroom Decorum Rules.
 - a) All attorneys appearing by Zoom shall wear professional business attire.
 - b) Appropriate dress is required for all non-attorney participants. Sunglasses are not permitted to be worn during a hearing, unless for medically necessary purposes.
 - c) A Zoom participant’s actual or virtual background shall not be distracting or contain inappropriate subject matter.
 - d) All persons appearing by Zoom shall be in a quiet location with an adequate internet connection. Participants shall prevent interruptions by children, significant others, pets., etc....
 - e) If an internet connection is unstable or the surrounding environment is distracting the hearing may be rescheduled to a later date.
 - f) All persons appearing by Zoom shall select a location where they can sit comfortably and shall remain seated and still during an entire Zoom hearing. Participants shall not drive while attending a Zoom hearing.
 - g) All persons appearing by Zoom shall be on time. Zoom participants shall not leave the Zoom hearing until the Court recesses or the litigant has been released by the Court.
 - h) Upon entering a Zoom video conference, all participants shall remain in the Zoom waiting room until admitted into the hearing by the Court.
 - i) Participants shall place their device on mute and shall remain muted until that participant’s case is called.

- j) While Court is in session, all Zoom participants shall not appear from a restroom, sleep or lay down, chew gum, eat/drink, smoke or vape. All participants shall behave appropriately and be sober.
8. Spokane County District Court may adopt further restrictions as necessary to respond to the current state of emergency to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 and will do so by further court order

DATED THIS THE 19th DAY OF Oct., 2021.



Aimee N. Maurer
Presiding Judge