

**Spokane Municipal Court  
City of Spokane, State of Washington**

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
THE RESPONSE BY SPOKANE  
MUNICIPAL COURT TO THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON

**Case No: 2020-12**

**EMERGENCY ORDER RE:  
COURT OPERATIONS – COVID-19  
TRANSMISSION PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, The Commissioners of Spokane County, the Mayor of the City of Spokane, and the Spokane Regional Health District have also declared a state of emergency in Spokane County due to the same public health concerns;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700- B-618 (Filed April 29, 2020), suspending all civil and criminal jury trials until after July 6, 2020, in addition to granting emergency authority to this Court 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, on March 23, 2020, April 2, 2020 and again on May 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington has added additional restrictions on the citizens of the State of Washington due to the declared state of emergency concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) with his Proclamations; and

WHEREAS, this Court issued its Emergency Orders 2010-01 through 2020-11 to respond to the state of emergency and mitigate the effect of COVID-19,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020, AT 12:01 AM PDT:

1. Any person who is sick or in quarantine shall not enter any Spokane Municipal Court courtroom;
2. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable;

3. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned with disinfectant;
4. Social distancing measures will be strictly enforced to the greatest extent practicable in all Courtrooms and public areas in the Courthouse. Courtrooms and court administration areas have been equipped with social distancing markers to illustrate appropriate distancing. Each individual courtroom will have a limited capacity due to social distancing;
5. All persons entering the Municipal Court courtrooms shall be required to a face covering, which fully covers their mouth and nose, unless exempted under paragraph #6 below. Individuals who are Active Participants in a court proceeding may remove their face covering if they wish. The Court may also direct the removal of face coverings worn by active participants to facilitate clear communication and due process. The term "Active Participant" includes those seated at counsel tables, witnesses, judge, and court staff;
6. Pursuant to the face covering directive issued by the local health office order, the following individuals do not need to wear a face covering:
  - a) Any child aged two years or less;
  - b) Any child aged 12 years or less unless parents and caregivers supervise the use of face coverings by children to avoid misuse;
  - c) Any individual who has a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a face covering;
  - d) Any individual who is hard of hearing and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication or an individual who is communicating with a person who is hard of hearing and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication;
  - e) Any individual who has been directly advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health-related reasons; and/or
  - f) Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

For the protection of the others in the courtroom, such individuals may be requested, if medically unable to do so, to wear a face shield as an alternative to a more form fitting face covering; and

7. Spokane Municipal Court may adopt further restrictions as necessary to respond to the current state of emergency in order to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 and will do so by further court order.

DATED THIS 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2020

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MATTHEW W. ANTUSH, Presiding Judge