

**FILED**

MAR 26 2019

**SPOKANE MUNICIPAL COURT**

**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

**No: 2020-01**

**EMERGENCY ORDER  
RE: COURT OPERATIONS  
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State. The actions set forth herein will take effect on Monday March 16, 2020 and will remain in effect until further order of the Court, unless otherwise stated herein. If a date is stated herein, the stated date may be extended by further Court Order.

1. On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the Public health emergency posed by the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
2. On March 4, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens entered Order No. 25700-B-602, in response to the declared public health emergency in Washington State, that states, in part, as follows:

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in these counties to close, relocate or otherwise significantly modify their regular operations; and WHEREAS, the presiding Judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions, NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants and the public, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current public health emergency;
2. Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
3. Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an administrative order closing the court, file the original with clerk of the affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as practicable"

3. WHEREAS on March 13, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared a national state of emergency related to COVID-19.
4. WHEREAS ON March 13, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee expanded a previously declared emergency in several western Washington counties to the entire State of Washington ordered and ordered all K-12 public schools closed until April 24, 2020; and
5. WHEREAS the March 18, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens entered Order No. 25700-B-606 Order various delays in civil and criminal cases beyond April 24, 2020, and modifying rules regarding, time for trial, commencement date calculations, settings of arraignment, the issuance of ex parte NCO, waving various signature requirements from defendants, and delaying all civil matters;

Given the significant number projected cases of COVID-19 likely to occur in the City of Spokane and the severity of risk posed to the public, court personnel and litigants, and given the recommendations from local, state, and federal public health offices;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to the authority of Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25 700-B-602, Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25 700-B-606; and the authority as Presiding Judge of the Spokane Municipal Court the following shall be in effect commencing March 23, 2020:

A. E-Filing

1. Spokane Municipal Court Local Rule General Rule SPM 30(b)(5)(A) and Spokane Municipal Court Local Rule General Rule SPM 30(b)(5)(B) are temporarily amended for the duration of this order to make electronic filing permissive effective the date of this order and mandatory, effective April 1, 2020, for all pleadings filed with the Court that do not require a statutory filing fee.
2. Spokane Municipal Court Local Rule General Rule SPM 30(b)(5) is temporarily amended to add a new subparagraph (D) as follows: All e-filing in Spokane Municipal Court shall be completed in accordance with the Spokane Municipal Court Emergency Ad Hoc e-File System Instructions, published by the Court on its website at: <https://my.spokanecity.org/courts/municipal-court/>, and available at the front counter of the Clerk's Office.
3. Statutory filing fees for various actions and appeals remain in effect. These fees must be collected at the Spokane Municipal Court Clerk's window prior to the Court accepting any pleadings associated with that action or appeal.
4. Administrative fees associated with the use, or failure to use, the Court's e-file system are suspended for the duration of this order.

B. This Order may be amended or withdrawn as warranted to address the on-going public health emergency.

DATED THIS 26 day of March 2020



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MATTHEW W. ANTUSH, Presiding Judge