

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY THE COURT  
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19  
RE:

Temporary Probation Dept. Administrative Order  
No. 2020 - 09

District Court Probation Procedures

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has determined the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) has now reached worldwide pandemic levels; and

WHEREAS, people within Washington State and Whatcom County have been diagnosed with COVID-19; 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 for the County due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Health Department, per Dr. Greg Stern, has issued new recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 within Whatcom County which include, among other actions, the cancellation or postponement of non-essential public gatherings and that certain higher risk target populations should stay at home away from large groups of people as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, the calling together of prospective jurors and the jury selection process necessarily requires exposure to large groups of people which is a medically contraindicated activity under the current states of emergency;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-606 which grants this court emergency authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions as deemed warranted to address the current COVID-19 public health emergency;

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has issued a state-wide "Stay at Home" order, see, PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR'S, PROCLAMATION 20-25, which directs people to remain in their homes for a period of time;

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has issued GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION 20-35 which raises pertinent issues concerning community supervision of certain felony offenders by the Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, there are no known local drug/alcohol treatment providers performing UA testing of clients due to the present public health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Until further Order of the Court, certain current policies and procedures for the operation of the District Court Probation Department and its supervision of defendants are altered as described below:

1. The timelines for obtaining evaluations and the commencement of treatment are tolled until April 24, 2020.
2. Probation Officers may, when adequate verification is possible, authorize defendants to engage in online support/treatment groups as a means to satisfy existing treatment requirements.
3. All out-of-custody UA testing requirements are suspended until after April 24, 2020.
4. When feasible, probation supervision appointments and intakes shall be conducted remotely via telephone or online services.

Except as noted above, all other existing policies and procedures, including previously issued temporary administrative orders, remain in place and effect.

DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020.



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David M. Grant, Presiding Judge