

March 16, 2020

Greetings,

I sincerely hope you, your family, friends and clients are adjusting to the unique and unprecedented circumstances that we find ourselves in because of COVID-19. Over the course of the day, I have felt the full gamut of emotions that one might expect. I am also thinking about you and what the Court can do to make things easier for you.

As we contemplate how calendars might look going forward and in preparation for our meetings this week, I would ask that you review the Administrative Order filed today in Whatcom County Superior Court (attached).

One of the observations to be made over the past week is the inconsistency between courts in terms of how they are handling their calendars in the immediate future. Chief Justice Stephens has given the courts broad latitude to “adopt, modify and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions.”

In our effort to accommodate your needs and the needs of your clients, we are going to attempt to use telephonic appearances as a method to continue to process cases. If you have not seen the correspondence on that topic it is available on the Kitsap County Superior Court website: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/sc/>. I don't know with certainty if it will work. But I do want to try. The Whatcom County Order is an example of a more restrictive approach that under the circumstances is entirely reasonable. And it may be the type of an approach that you might prefer as you think about what is best for you and your practice.

So please take a look at it and be prepared to share your thoughts at our meetings this week.

Yours, Kevin

Kevin Hull, Judge  
Kitsap County Superior Court  
Department 6



<https://www.kitsapgov.com/sc/Documents/Whatcom-Superior-2nd-Administrative-Order.pdf>