

**KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

No. 2020-9

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RE PENDING & ROUTINE
GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).¹

Washington has been "ground zero" for this disease. Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms, for others it can pose a serious and potentially lethal risk as exhibited by the increasing number of Washington deaths currently attributed to the disease. Governor Inslee has declared a state of emergency and has banned most events with more than 50 people. It has been declared that all Washington elementary and secondary schools will be closed through April 24, 2020.

Kitsap County Superior Court has consulted with the Kitsap County Health Department² concerning the current status of the disease as well as recommendations the Health Department has made to attempt to contain and mitigate the spread of the disease.

On March 4, 2020, the Washington Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to the presiding judges of all Washington courts 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."

On March 13, 2020, the Kitsap County Superior Court adopted Emergency Administrative Order 2020-1 to address Superior Court Criminal and Civil Jury trials. On March 16, 2020, the Kitsap County Superior Court adopted Emergency Administrative Order 2020-2 to address Juvenile Dependency proceedings. On March 17, 2020, the Kitsap County Superior Court adopted

¹ Hereafter "disease."

² Hereafter "health department."

Emergency Administrative Order No. 2020-3 regarding courtroom management. On March 17, 2020, the Kitsap County Superior Court adopted Emergency Administrative Order No. 2020-4 in response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 that was reported among a member of the Kitsap County Superior Court.

On March 18, 2020, the Supreme Court of Washington entered Order No. 25700-B-606 which, related to civil cases, states as follows:

- 1.) All civil jury trials shall be suspended until after April 24, 2020.
- 2.) All non-emergency civil matters shall be continued until after April 24, 2020.
- 3.) All emergency matters that must be heard before April 24, 2020, must be heard by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance unless impossible, and;

The Court recognizes that there are procedural issues in juvenile, dependency, involuntary commitment, child support, and other matters that may not be encompassed in this Order. Nothing in the Order limits other interested parties in submitting similar orders tailored to the unique circumstances of those matters and any other matters not contemplated by this Order; however, parties are strongly encouraged to contemplate the issues addressed in this Order.

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in Washington, the severity of the risk posed to the public, the recommendations of the Health Department, and the authority granted by Order No. 25700-B-602, the current situation demands immediate action by the Courts. NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that effective immediately and until further Order of the Court –

PENDING GUADIANSHIP MATTERS

1. Guardianship matters that have been noted on the Guardianship Calendar for March 20 and March 27, 2020 shall be reviewed by the Court on March 26. Proposed orders for each matter shall be emailed to SuperiorCourt@co.kitsap.wa.us prior to noon on March 26, 2020.

2. Matters to which there has been no response from notice parties, and which are approved by the reviewing Judge, will be handled summarily by entry of the proposed order with no appearance, telephonic or otherwise required.

3. Matters that cannot be handled summarily will be set for telephonic appearance or set for hearing at a future date at the discretion of the reviewing Judge.

4. Request issuance of Letters of Guardianship, or certified copy of an order at exparte@co.kitsap.wa.

ROUTINE GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS

1. Petitions to approve accountings, approve budget disbursements, authorize sale of property and similar routine, ongoing guardianship matters shall be noted for hearing only after conferring with the Court Scheduler and filed, with a bench copy provided, by regular mail. The bench copy shall include a proposed order.

2. Matters to which there has been no response from notice parties, and which are approved by the reviewing Judge, will be handled summarily by entry of the proposed order with no appearance, telephonic or otherwise required.

3. Matters that cannot be handled summarily will be set for telephonic appearance or set for hearing at a future date at the discretion of the reviewing Judge.

4. Request issuance of Letters of Guardianship, or certified copy of an order at exparte@co.kitsap.wa.

DATED – MARCH 20, 2020

Signed electronically

KEVIN D. HULL, Presiding Judge
Kitsap County Superior Court