

## Kitsap County District Court Update

### May 14, 2020

Greetings:

I had hoped by now that Kitsap District Court would be able to outline its reopening of the clerk's office (room 106) and courtrooms 104, 201 and 203. Unfortunately, current events are not clear enough to allow the court to do so at this time.

The difficulty in reopening District Court's clerk's office and additional courtrooms remains one of safety to the public, attorneys, litigants and staff. The clerk's office, as well as Courthouse hallways and courtrooms, are not built to comply with state social distancing requirements and District Court's high volume of individuals who will need to access the office, hallways and courtrooms. While District Court has begun use of Zoom technology so that attorneys and litigants need not appear in person in a courtroom, the technology is unlikely to significantly diminish the number of people who will be entering the Courthouse when District Court's remaining courtrooms and the clerk's office are reopened.

Accordingly, the cases scheduled through June 12, 2020 in courtrooms 104 (criminal), 105 (out-of-custody arraignments and motions to revoke), and 203 (civil) are continued for the length of time outlined by emergency orders previously issued. Those courtrooms remain closed at least through June 12, 2020.

The Chief Justice has decreed that no jury trials may be heard before July 6, 2020. The Courthouse does not have the capacity given current state requirements for both Superior and District Courts to conduct multiple jury trials at the same time. Superior Court anticipates perhaps beginning jury trials in July, albeit with limited jury panels due to social distancing limitations in the juror holding area and courtrooms. District Court's jury trials will need to wait until Superior Court's jury trial experiences can be assessed. All jury trials scheduled in courtroom 201 through July 3, 2020 are continued to August 24, 2020 or later as outlined by emergency orders previously issued.

The District Court clerk's office (room 106) remains closed to the public. Kitsap District Court can be contacted by email at [kcfdc@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:kcfdc@co.kitsap.wa.us) or by telephone at (360) 337-7109. Kitsap District Court remains open.

If an emergency exists resulting in a need to be heard on an expedited basis, please see the process outlined in Emergency Administrative Order 2020-14 available on the court's website at [www.kitsapgov.com/dc](http://www.kitsapgov.com/dc). All Superior and District Court emergency orders are available as well. All emergency orders remain in effect.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

*Jeffrey J. Jahns, Presiding Judge*  
*Kitsap County District Court*