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ALISON H. SONNTAG

## KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

No. 2020-27

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER RE – PROHIBITING
RECORDING OR POSTING REMOTE
COURT PROCEEDINGS

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

WHEREAS, Washington State General Rule 16 generally allows video recording by news media in the courtroom during and between sessions, it requires prior permission of the judge; and

WHEREAS, the Superior and District Courts have announced an expansion of case types it will conduct remotely to ensure the safety and well-being of court staff, counsel, parties, and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the State Constitutional requirements related to Open Courts, the Superior and District Courts have established the ability to conduct online remote hearings and trials using Court-designated Zoom access channels; and

WHEREAS, the streamed video feed is not considered an official record of the proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, that the prohibition on recording proceedings of the Superior and District Courts without prior judicial permission extends to recording the audio and video of remote proceedings; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED, that all lawyers, litigants, participants or observing members of the press or public are prohibited from taking photographs or recording video or audio during remote proceedings, except with written authorization by the Presiding Judge of the respective court or of the judicial officer conducting the hearing; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED, that no person participating in, or listening to, such a proceeding may rebroadcast, live-stream, or otherwise disseminate any live or recorded audio or video of the court proceeding, except with written authorization by the Presiding Judge of the respective court or of the judicial officer conducting the hearing; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED, that violation of this ORDER may subject the offender to removal, contempt of court, and other penalties as provided by law.

SO ORDERED.

DATED - SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

KEVIN D. HULL Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court

JEFFREY J. JAHNS Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court