

FILED

NOV 30 2020

KIMBERLY A. ALLEN
GRANT COUNTY CLERK

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR GRANT COUNTY

IN MATTER OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC)
HEALTH EMERGENCY RE:)
CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19)
_____)
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 10)
RE: SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS)

WHEREAS, this matter comes before the Court again on the COVID-19 public health emergency in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, April 2, 2020, May 1, 2020, and again on November 15, 2020, Governor Inslee added additional restrictions on the citizens of the State of Washington due to the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court issued the Fourth Revised and Extended Order No. 25700-B-646 on October 13, 2020 granting emergency authority to this Court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions regarding court operations as warranted, including suspension of jury trials, to address the current public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, between November 11, 2020 and November 25, 2020 the Grant County Health District reported a COVID-19 positivity rate of 910 cases per 100,000 residents in Grant County, which is significantly higher than the stated goal of less than 25 per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, State and local health officials have advised members of the public to limit contact with persons outside of their individual households in light of the current surge of COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2020, Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Stephens issued a message to all Washington courts, acknowledging the rise of COVID-19 activity

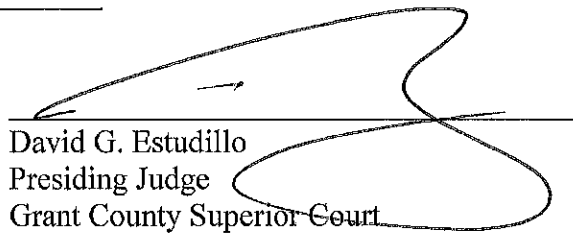
in the State of Washington and requesting all courts reassess “the risk of in-person proceedings and the present ability to mitigate those risks consistent with public health guidance”;

WHEREAS, the Grant County Superior Court having reassessed the risk of conducting jury trials in light of the current COVID-19 positivity rate in Grant County;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All criminal jury trials are hereby suspended until after January 11, 2021.
2. The Court finds that a continuance of criminal jury trials is required in the administration of justice. The Court also finds that a serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to continue criminal jury trials, and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under CrR 3.3(e)(8). Based on these findings, the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date is EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial. CrR 3.3(e)(3).
3. All civil jury trials are hereby suspended until after January 11, 2021.
4. This administrative order and other administrative orders previously issued by the Grant County Superior Court in response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 public health emergency may be deemed part of the record in affected cases for purposes of appeal without the need to file the orders in each case.
5. The Court understands the pending public health emergency created by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 is a fluid situation that continues to develop on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. Accordingly, the Court will continue to review emerging developments and may issue further administrative orders as necessary.

ORDER DATED: 11/30/2020



David G. Estudillo
Presiding Judge
Grant County Superior Court