

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COUNTIES OF FERRY, PEND OREILLE, AND STEVENS**

STEVENS COUNTY NO: 20-2-00001-33 #13

PEND OREILLE COUNTY NO: 5-14-2020

FERRY COUNTY NO: 20-2-00001-10

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE CONTINUED COURT OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee extended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order and adopted a phased approach to lifting restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and April 13, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court issued emergency orders in response to the public health emergency that affects operations of the trial courts in Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-618, *Second Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations*; and,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has granted emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, each Board of County Commissioners in the Tri-County Judicial District of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties has declared a state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the Superior Court facilities in the Tri-County Judicial District of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties are ill-equipped to effectively comply with strict social distancing and other public health requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the Superior Court remains open and is now able to safely conduct non-emergent court proceedings in remote access courtrooms;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Superior Court's authority to administer justice in the Tri-County Judicial District and to ensure the safety of litigants, attorneys, court staff, judges, and members of the public, the Superior Court FINDS as follows:

1. Washington Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-618 supersedes all previous COVID 19 Emergency Administrative Orders issued by this Court; and,
2. The Superior Court Judicial District of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties is currently able to operate safely within the provisions of Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-618; and,
3. To ensure the Court continues to function as fully as possible during this public health crisis, it is necessary to establish Court procedures that pertain specifically to the modified Court operations in the Tri-County Judicial District;
4. To ensure continued performance of Court functions, while protecting the health of staff and the public, the Superior Court Clerks must be authorized to modify their operating hours, procedures for serving the public, and to take certain administrative actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Any COVID 19 Emergency Administrative Orders previously issued by this Court and currently in effect are HEREBY TERMINATED AND SUPERSEDED by Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-618.

FURTHER, THE COURT ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Procedures for Continued Court Operations, as attached hereto and incorporated herewith, are hereby adopted and effective on May 18, 2020.
2. The Superior Court Clerks shall administratively strike all criminal and civil jury trials set between the date of this order and July 5, 2020.

3. At the discretion of the Superior Court Clerk, operating hours and methods of serving the public may be modified as necessary to comply with the strictest safety standards recommended by state and local health authorities.
4. In the event public service windows/counters are closed, the Clerk's Office must remain open to provide services via telephone, email, mail, and/or locked drop box.
5. The Clerk shall post any operational modifications on the County website and at the County Courthouse and email the same to the Court Administrator.

DATED this 14th day of May 2020.



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Jessica T. Reeves, Presiding Judge