

**KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE**

) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
)
) **NO. GAO 14-12**
)
) **Closing Cases – No Notice**
)

King County District Court has accumulated thousands of civil cases in its system but in which there has been no activity for ten years or more. To accommodate new cases which are being filed and for a new case management system these no activity cases need to be dismissed and/or closed. By law if a judgment on a case has not been collected within ten years and the judgment has not been extended prior to the ten year expiration date the judgment itself expires. RCW 6.17.020. In addition cases filed but not served on a defendant are subject to the maximum statute of limitations ranging from three to six years. RCW 4.16.040 and .080. As the statute of limitations has expired, these cases cannot be further prosecuted. Finally, all of the King County District Court civil departments have sent notices pursuant to Court Rule (CRLJ 41 (b)) for cases that are already 10 years or older and that have had no activity. These cases are subject to judicial dismissal. Subsequent replies to such notice have been minimal and in all these cases they have since been dismissed or closed.

Parties to these lawsuits or claims would know or should know that if there has not been any extension of judgment or activity on a case for ten years or older either the judgment has expired by law, the statute of limitations has run, or further pursuit of the action is disallowed by court rule after proper notice was given. As such, no further notice need be provided to parties of cases that are ten years or older and in which there has been no activity within that ten year period.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

Therefore the court is directed to close/dismiss all those cases that fall into this category of being ten years or older where there has been no activity or where there has not been any extension of judgment or the statute of limitations has expired. This is to be done without further notice to any party.

EFFECTIVE November 3, 2014

DONE this 24 day of October, 2014



**Corinna Harn
Chief Presiding Judge
King County District Court**