



Ex Parte Department- What We Are Hearing At This Time

We are hearing all orders under LCR 40.1, which may be presented Ex Parte via the Clerk (EPVC) consistent with historical practice, EXCEPTIONS TO BE DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE: Default judgments or Motions for default; Unlawful detainers per Governor Inslee and Mayor Durkan's Orders; Supplemental proceedings; and Judgments on garnishment.

All hearings in the Ex Parte Department shall be telephonic. Parties are not required to confirm; however, the court will only hear matters where parties have submitted timely working papers and call into the conference line as directed. See <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/ex-parte-probate.aspx> for detailed instruction. All parties are encouraged to utilize Electronic Working Copies. Proposed Orders should be presented in WORD if possible. Review GR 30 with respect to the use of electronic signatures. In limited circumstances, parties may email their working papers to the Ex Parte Department.

To facilitate hearings by telephone, alterations to the normal practice are noted below:

- A. Adoptions. Adoption finalizations are allowed telephonically when the parties provide signed interrogatories in lieu of live testimony. Adoption matters other than final orders can be submitted via EPVC. DCYF adoptions are handled by Judge Berns.
- B. Probates. Probates with wills must have the original will delivered or mailed to the Clerk for delivery to the Commissioner contemporaneous to the Petition. Those matters which do not require notice shall be presented EPVC.
- C. Guardianships. GALs are authorized to arrange for video conference interviews with AIPs without prior court authorization provided this is clearly described in detail in the GAL's report. New Public Pay Guardianships shall be submitted via EPVC (Instructions here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/Clerk/docs/misc/Updated-Instructions-for-Ex-Parte-via-the-Clerk-Fee-Waiver.ashx?la=en>).
- D. Agreed Family Law Finalizations. Agreed matters without children, presented by counsel are submitted via EPVC. Agreed matters with children, submitted by counsel, are emailed to the Ex Parte Department and set for hearing by telephone at a specific time. All pro se agreed finalizations will be submitted via email to the Family Law Facilitator. All dissolutions must include a Declaration in Lieu of Formal Proof signed by the presenting party. Agreed parenting plans should not be submitted to EPVC.
- E. Receiverships/Foreclosures/Minor Settlements/Ex Parte Motions. All matters that require notice to parties shall be noted and must include the Ex Parte Addendum form posted on the Ex Parte website here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/ex-parte-probate.aspx>
- F. Emergency Restraining Orders/Protection Orders. A process has been set up for electronic submission for consideration by a judicial officer; who will either sign the order if the judicial officer does not have any questions or call the petitioner/parties for a telephonic hearing. Protection Orders are submitted via the Clerk's office (Process here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/PO.aspx>). All other restraining orders are submitted via email to the Ex Parte Department. Parties may be directed to submit working papers as needed.



Civil Department-What We Are Hearing At This Time

All civil motions.

LCR 7 is suspended and time is enlarged. The moving party shall serve and file all motion documents no later than **nine court days** before the date the party wishes the motion to be considered; opposing documents will be filed and served no later than 4:30 p.m. **four court days** before the motion is to be considered; and any optional strict reply will be filed and served no later than 4:30 p.m. **two court days** before the hearing.

Summary Judgments are presumed to be heard without oral argument unless:

- The assigned judge requests oral argument; or
- The parties request *and* the judge grants.
- Request to be made in moving papers.

All oral arguments will be telephonic.

How to move to continue motions on COVID-related issues?

Continuances on all motions, summary judgments, or nine court day motions related to COVID-19 related issues, will be considered in the same manner as a CR 56(f) Motion (a declaration or certification of reason).

Oath of Attorneys will be handled by telephone.

See <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/directory/judges/cahan.aspx> for instruction.

What We Are Not Hearing At This Time

All civil trials. All civil trials currently scheduled between March 16, 2020 and June 8, 2020 shall be re-set to a date on or after June 8, 2020. The parties may submit an agreed order for a new trial date. If the parties cannot agree, either party may file a motion to set a new trial date. If the parties do not submit an agreed order or motion by April 10, 2020, the court will set a new trial date on its own motion.

Supplemental Proceedings. Suspended until after April 24, 2020.

Motions for default and motions for default judgment request for entry of the Judgment and Order to Pay on Writs of Garnishment.

These will be denied without prejudice until April 24, 2020.

Most Evictions per the Governor's and Mayor's Orders