

1 FILED
2 2020 MAR 17
3 KING COUNTY
4 SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

5 CASE #: 20-0-12050-5 SEA

6 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
7 IN AND FOR KING COUNTY

8 IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY)
9 KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO THE) No. 20-0-12050-5
10 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN)
11 WASHINGTON STATE)
12) UNIFIED FAMILY COURT
13) GENERAL ORDER RE:
14) 1. Trial Continuances
15) 2. Post-Secondary Child Support
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23)

16 This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington
17 State.

18 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, based on the findings in King County Emergency
19 Orders Nos. 1-6 (see file number 20-0-12050-5 - available at <https://bit.ly/2wflWRM>)
20 and the proclamations of Governor Jay Inslee (<https://bit.ly/33ILTeA>) and President
21 Donald Trump (<https://bit.ly/38SiuK7>) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and based
22 on the Court's need to maintain public health and safety balanced against the Court's
23 core constitutional obligations to the public:

1. All trials currently set in the Unified Family Court (UFC) in King County
Superior Court between March 16, 2020 and June 8, 2020, *other than those trials now in*

1 *progress*, are stricken and will be re-set to a date on or after June 8, 2020, except a party
2 can demonstrate, by six-day motion noted without oral argument to the assigned judge,
3 that there are compelling circumstances to preserve the current trial date
4 notwithstanding the public health concerns articulated King County Emergency Orders
5 Nos. 1-6. Motions to preserve trial date shall be filed within 10 days of receiving this
6 order or may be addressed at the status conference described in paragraph three.

7 2. When reviewing a motion to preserve trial date, the Court will consider as
8 potential compelling circumstances the following non-exhaustive factors:

- 9 a. whether a child is in imminent risk of harm that cannot be mitigated by
10 temporary orders;
- 11 b. whether the delay inherent in a continuance, despite any temporary
12 orders, would jeopardize the basic financial survival of the child or
13 parties (for example, by risking one's ability to maintain housing, one's
14 capacity to provide for bare necessities, or the availability of critical
15 health care);
- 16 c. whether the delay inherent in a continuance, despite any temporary
17 orders, would irreversibly prejudice either a party or a child.

18 3. The UFC assigned judges of the Court will contact the affected parties to
19 offer new trial dates and address any points of concern. If, by March 30, 2020, the Court
20 has not contacted the parties about a new trial date, the parties in that matter shall contact
21 the bailiff for the assigned judge in question. *However, if a party already has been ordered to*
22 *appear for a pretrial conference (PTC) connected to a trial that falls between March 16, and June*
23 *8, 2020, and that PTC has not yet occurred, those PTCs will remain set and the assigned judge*
will address the issues in this order at the previously scheduled PTC rather than setting a new
status conference.

1 4. The parties are strongly encouraged to consider in advance of the status
2 conference the following:

- 3 a. whether a motion to preserve current trial is contemplated;
- 4 b. whether there are fundamental issues that may need to be addressed
5 prior to trial, and if so, whether those issues can be resolved with or
6 without oral argument;
- 7 c. whether the rescheduled trial could be held via teleconference or
8 videoconference; and
- 9 d. whether the trial or triable issues should be referred to binding
10 arbitration or other mechanism of resolution.

11 5. All UFC motions permitted by Emergency Order #6, previously scheduled
12 pre-trial conferences, and status conferences will be held by telephone or videoconference
13 only. No in-person court appearances will be permitted without express written
14 permission from the assigned UFC judge. In addition, the UFC judge may determine that
15 a motion will be decided without any oral argument.

16 6. The Court also provides notice that if public health issues so require, it may
17 need to continue trials currently set beyond June 8, 2020 as circumstances evolve.

18 7. All parties and persons are encouraged to monitor the King County UFC
19 website at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family.aspx> for
20 updates.

21 8. For purposes of Emergency Order #6 issued 3/16/20, motions or trials by
22 affidavit related to post-secondary child support are deemed to be “mission critical” if
23 the court’s jurisdiction may lapse or there is a college deadline that cannot be extended.

Dated: March 17, 2020

Electronic signature attached

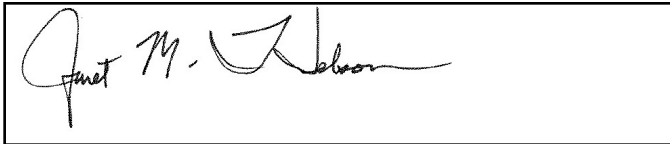
CHIEF UFC JUDGE JANET HELSON

King County Superior Court
Judicial Electronic Signature Page

Case Number: 20-0-12050-5
Case Title: General Admin Policy Orders

Document Title: ORDER RE UFC TRIALS AND POST-SECONDARY

Signed by: Janet Helson
Date: 3/17/2020 2:49:08 PM

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Janet M. Helson" in a cursive script.

Judge/Commissioner: Janet Helson

This document is signed in accordance with the provisions in GR 30.

Certificate Hash: 9EA02A1ED5E4EF3D2A4D7D25146B24D530063ED6
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Certificate Issued by: C=US, E=kscsefiling@kingcounty.gov, OU=KCDJA,
O=KCDJA, CN="Janet Helson:
4OQ4Hanx4xG2BZv/HV1GsA=="