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FILED
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MAR 19 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY
KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN
WASHINGTON STATE

No. 20-0-12050-5

EMERGENCY ORDER #11
RE: CIVIL MATTERS

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, based on the findings in King County Emergency Orders Nos. 1-6 (available at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court.aspx>), and the proclamations of Governor Jay Inslee (<https://bit.ly/33ILTeA>), and President Donald Trump (<https://bit.ly/38SiuK7>) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and Justice Stephens' Order No 25700-B-606 (<https://bit.ly/3a3WC03>) and based on the Court's need to maintain public health and safety balanced against the Court's core constitutional obligations to the public:

A. Civil Trials

1. All civil trials currently scheduled in King County Superior Court between March 16, 2020 and June 8, 2020 are stricken and will be re-set to a date on or after June 8, 2020.

- 1 2. The parties may submit an agreed order for a new trial date. If the parties
2 cannot agree, either party may file a motion or request a status conference with
3 the Judge after April 24, 2020.
- 4 3. When the Court is able to resume jury trials, the court must prioritize
5 assignments. This means criminal trials, dependency trials, and certain family
6 law matters will take priority over civil cases in the short term. The court is
7 putting parties on notice so parties may have clear expectations.

8 **B. Civil Motions**

- 9 1. The Supreme Court Order states that all non-emergency civil matters shall be
10 continued until after April 24, 2020. Hence, all current non-emergency motions
11 will be Denied without Prejudice, except as noted below in paragraph 4, and
12 may be re-noted to a date after April 24, 2020. (This includes all summary
13 Judgments and motions without oral argument.) All motions arguing that
14 matters are an emergency are to be noted without oral argument.
- 15 2. When the court is able to resume the processing of non-emergency motions,
16 oral argument will be by telephone or video-conference only, unless in the rare
17 event the assigned judge requests in-person oral argument. Until further
18 notice, in-person court appearances for all civil cases will not be permitted
19 without prior written permission from the assigned judicial officer.
- 20 3. Chief Civil matters such Supplemental Proceedings and Oath of Attorney
21 Ceremony are not an emergency and are suspended until after April 24, 2020.
- 22 4. Agreed orders will be considered and decided. Pending matters will also be
23 decided. Parties may note a motion for reconsideration or revision at this time
but it may not be decided until after April 24.

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C. Ex Parte

1. Only the following matters will be heard in Ex Parte Department:

- a. Emergency applications for DVPO (Domestic Violence Protection Orders), SAPO (Sexual Assault Protection Orders), VAPO (Vulnerable Adult Protections Order), and ERPO (Extreme Risk Protection Orders. There is a new protocol allowing for submission remotely. Please see new process on the King County Superior Court Clerk's Office website (<https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk.aspx>).
- b. Emergency Guardianship matters involving an immediate risk of harm.
- c. Emergency Civil and Family Law Restraining Orders where there is an imminent risk of physical harm.

2. Motions deemed non-emergent by a reviewing judicial officer will be Denied without prejudice.

3. All hearings in the Ex Parte Department shall be telephonic. Parties/attorneys shall call the appropriate number at the noted time and wait for the court to call their case. See Ex Parte website for contact information.

4. Non-emergency matters should **not** be submitted in the Ex Parte queue.

D. The Court also provides notice that if public health issues so requires, the court may further modify operations. All parties and persons are encouraged to monitor the King County website at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court.aspx> for updates.

Dated: March 19, 2020



JUDGE JIM ROGERS