

FILED
KING COUNTY WASHINGTON

MAR 13 2020

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

**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 #5

REGARDING DEPENDENCY
PROCEEDINGS

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

FINDINGS OF FACT BASED UPON THE PUBLIC RECORD

1. On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

1 4. On March 12, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee ordered all schools closed in King, Pierce
2 and Snohomish counties until April 24.
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4 5. On March 12, 2020, the Seattle Times published a Gates Foundation study cited by
5 both Governor Inslee and Dr. Duchin, *Working paper-model-based estimates of COVID-19 burden*
6 *in King and Snohomish counties through April 7, 2020*, Klein, Hagedorn, Kerr, Hu, Bedford and
7 Famulare; Institutc for Disease Modeling; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Fred Hutchinson
8 Cancer Research Institute, March 10, 2020. The conclusions of this study were based upon business
9 as usual; 25, 50, and 75 per cent reduction, from January 15 to April 7. The conclusion of“business
10 as usual” (that is to say, no general orders such as entered by the Governor and Public Health
11 Officer, no banning of large or small groups, no precautions) estimated 25,000 infections and 400
12 deaths by April 7. On the other hand, mitigation efforts such as announced above could reduce the
13 range of dcaths by a significant amount.
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15 6. Governor Inslee has explained that the coronavirus doubles the infection rate every
16 five to seven days. Some estimates say that by end of April, the infection rate could be one million,
17 without mitigation.
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20 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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22 1. On March 4th 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens entered an Emergency Order
23 that states, in part, as follows:

24 **WHEREAS**, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for
25 courts in these counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their
regular operations; and

- 1 a. Emergency Motions (immediately critical to child safety and health)
2 b. Disposition Hearing (at the discretion of the Lead Dependency Judge)
3 c. Pretrial Hearings (* Kent will continue to be heard on Monday afternoon)
4 d. TOPs
5 e. Preliminary Hearings

6 8. The following motions will be decided **without oral argument**

- 7 a. 30 Day Shelter Care Hearings
8 b. Motions
9 c. Initial Progress Review
10 d. Permanency Planning Hearing
11 e. Review Hearing

12 **Dependency Mediations and Settlement Conferences are suspended until further
13 notice.**

14 9. This Order is in place until April 24, 2020 and shall be reviewed before the last
15 effective date in light of the public health emergency as it then exists.

16 **It is so Ordered**

17 March 13, 2020

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Hon. Jim Rogers, Presiding Judge
22 King County Superior Court
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