

Superior Court of the State of Washington For Thurston County

Anne Hirsch, *Judge*
Carol Murphy, *Judge*
James J. Dixon, *Judge*
Erik D. Price, *Judge*
Christine Schaller, *Judge*
Mary Sue Wilson, *Judge*
John C. Skinder, *Judge*
Chris Lanese, *Judge*



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Telephone: (360) 786-5560 **Website:** www.co.thurston.wa.us/superior

Pamela Hartman Beyer,
Court Administrator
Indu Thomas,
Court Commissioner
Nathan Kortokrax,
Court Commissioner
Rebekah Zinn,
Court Commissioner

Date: August 14, 2020

To: Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecutor
Linda Myhre-Enlow, Thurston County Clerk
Patrick O'Connor, Thurston County Office of Public Defense
Todd Thoma, Thurston County Corrections
Marianne Clear, Thurston County Pretrial Services
Thurston County Bar Association

From: Judge Erik Price, Thurston County Superior Court Presiding Judge

Re: *Resuming Jury Trials in Thurston County Superior Court*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thurston County Superior Court suspended all jury trials in mid-March, 2020. While the Court briefly restarted our jury trial process in early July, the Court paused again as the public health situation deteriorated. Now, with consultation with public health authorities, the Court expects to resume jury trials on **August 31, 2020**.

As trials restart, jury service will look a bit different. New processes to maintain safety include smaller juror groups to ensure social distancing, required use of face coverings, and fewer trials being conducted simultaneously. Every stage of the jury trial process, from how jurors are selected for a trial to where jurors perform their deliberations, has been reviewed, and safeguards have been implemented. The Court is committed to making jury duty as safe as possible for all involved.

The constitutional right of our citizens to a jury trial is fundamental and key to the fair administration of justice. Jurors from a broad spectrum of the community are critical to just outcomes and trust in the process. The health and safety of all members of our community is of utmost importance to the Court as this critical component of the justice system resumes.

For more information regarding the juror safety and steps please review the Court's website.

(360) 786-5560 • accessibilitysuperiorcourt@co.thurston.wa.us

It is the policy of the Superior Court to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal and full access to the judicial system.