

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

To: Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecutor
Linda Myhre-Enlow, Thurston County Clerk
Patrick O'Connor, Thurston County Public Defense
Sgt. Trevor Davis, Thurston County Corrections
Marianne Clear, Director of Pretrial Services
Thurston County Bar Association
Washington State Attorney General's Office
Meredith Gerhart, TCBA Family Law Section
Dependency Team Members

Re: Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court Updates regarding COVID-19 issued May 7, 2020

From: Pamela Hartman Beyer, Thurston County Superior Court Administrator

Thurston County Superior Court issued Administrative Emergency Order No.1 on March 13, 2020, Emergency Administrative Order No. 2 on March 17, 2020, and Emergency Administrative Order No. 3 on March 20, 2020. Today, the court issued Emergency Administrative Order No. 4, after the direction from the Washington State Governor and Washington State Supreme last week.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of actions we will take at Thurston County Family and Juvenile Court to ensure that the Court addresses the health and well-being of court employees, litigants, attorneys, and the general public while performing its constitutional and statutory duties.

Information from the Court will continue to be updated on the Court's website:
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc>

Hours

Effective May 18, 2020, Thurston County Family and Juvenile Court will be operating from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Trials

All trials set during the weeks of May 18 and May 25, 2020 are stricken and will be reset. Between June 1, 2020 and July 10, 2020, the Court will hear trials only in higher priority cases.

Juvenile Offender & Civil Juvenile Proceedings

Juvenile Offender Proceedings between May 18, 2020 and May 29, 2020

The Court will hear a daily calendar (1:30 pm) to address hearings involving juvenile respondents held in detention.

Juvenile Offender Proceedings beginning June 1, 2020

The Court will hear bench trials, detention hearings, probation violation hearings, arraignments, pretrial hearings, special set change of plea hearings, miscellaneous review hearings, and records sealing proceedings beginning June 1, 2020. This will include matters for youth both in detention and not in detention. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, and remote participation.

Civil Juvenile Proceedings beginning June 1, 2020

The Court will not hear truancy cases during this next phase. The Court will hear proceedings in At Risk Youth and Children in Need of Services (ARY/CHINS) matters one day a week. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, and remote participation.

Dependency Proceedings

Dependency Proceedings beginning May 18, 2020

The Court will hear review hearings and permanency planning hearings, Family Recovery Court staffing and hearings, dependency motions, shelter care hearings, first-set fact finding hearings in dependency, guardianship, and termination cases, and trial confirmation hearings beginning May 18, 2020. The Court will also hear special set status hearings for termination and dependency trials previously cancelled.

Dependency Proceedings beginning June 1, 2020

In addition to the proceedings listed as being heard beginning May 18, 2020, the Court will hear contested dependency fact-finding and disposition hearings beginning June 1, 2020. All dependency proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, and remote participation.

Family Law and Civil Protection Order Proceedings

Ex-Parte for Family Law Emergency Motions

The process currently in place for Emergency Telephonic Ex Parte Motions will continue, but effective May 18, 2020, the time for telephonic hearing will be 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Parties or Attorneys must file any documents relevant to the emergency family law

motions, including a proposed order, prior to making a telephonic request. Materials must be filed no later than noon, on the day of hearing. See our website for additional details regarding these motions. This calendar will continue to be available ONLY for family law emergency motions.

Administrative Calendars for Agreed Orders for Family Law, Probate & Guardianship, and State Family Law (no hearing, administrative calendar) will continue

Administrative calendars with no hearing for agreed matters in family law, probate and guardianship, and state family law cases: The Court will continue to decide these matters without hearing. Parties should follow the process identified on the Court's website. The Court will continue to allow all agreed final orders to be presented through this process, so long as a verification is submitted. This will continue to apply to both represented and self-represented parties.

Civil Protection Order Hearings (domestic violence protection orders, sexual assault protection orders, anti-harassment protection orders, stalking protection orders, vulnerable adult protection orders, and extreme risk protection orders) beginning May 18, 2020

The Court will continue to hear petitions for initial protection orders (all categories). The Court will hear return hearings, and hearings reviewing compliance and weapon surrender orders beginning May 18, 2020. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, and remote participation.

Family Law Restraining Order Hearings beginning May 18, 2020

The Court will hear emergency motions for family law restraining orders on the 4:00 pm Ex Parte calendar (see above). The Court will conduct hearings related to family law restraining orders previously issued on special set calendars beginning May 18, 2020. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, and remote participation.

Adoption Proceedings beginning May 18, 2020

The Court will hear adoptions on Fridays at 8:30 beginning May 22, 2020. These proceedings will rely on remote participation.

Family Law Motions (including Family Law SRP, and Family Law Attorney, Non-Parental Custody, and all Judge's Motions Calendars) beginning June 1, 2020

The Court will hear motions on family law calendars beginning June 1, 2020. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, decisions on the pleadings and remote participation. The Court will provide additional guidance regarding near term priorities for types of motions that will be considered.

Probate & Guardianship beginning June 1, 2020

The Court will hear motions on Probate and Guardianship calendars beginning the week of June 1, 2020. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, decisions on the pleadings (no hearing) and remote participation. Only motions that do not qualify for consideration on the administrative calendar should be scheduled on this calendar.

Settlement Conferences canceled through at least July 10, 2020

Settlement Conferences scheduled to take place between May 18 and July 10 will be cancelled and reset. The Court will reschedule. Parties do not need to contact court administration.

State Family Law Calendars beginning June 1, 2020

The Court will hear motions on a State Family Law calendars beginning the week of June 1, 2020. These proceedings will rely on a combination of shorter sessions, time specific calendaring, decisions on the pleadings (no hearing) and remote participation. Only motions that do not qualify for consideration on the administrative calendar should be scheduled on this calendar.

Trial confirmation hearings beginning May 21, 2020

The Court will hear trial confirmation hearings beginning May 21, 2020. These hearings will rely on remote participation. During the month of June, the Court will identify a process to address re-setting trials that were cancelled between March 23 and June 1, 2020.

Involuntary Treatment Act Proceedings

Involuntary Treatment Calendars

Between May 18 and May 29, 2020, Involuntary Treatment (ITA) Calendars are proceeding at Main Campus Monday and Wednesday mornings and at Family and Juvenile Court Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Starting June 1, 2020, all ITA calendars will be heard at Family and Juvenile Court. All ITA proceedings will continue to be heard remotely through Skype.

Any calendar or proceeding not listed in this memo is cancelled until after July 10, 2020. The Court will post information regarding how to reschedule cancelled proceedings.

Orientation

No in-person orientation will occur between May 18 and July 10. The Court will schedule orientation sessions by video to occur in the month of June. The Court will also provide written

materials to parties in new family law cases. Please ensure to have a current address and phone number/email in the court file. Watch the website for more information.

Judge's Copies

The requirement of Judges Copies will remain suspended through at least July 10, 2020.

Website Information

For information regarding Family and Juvenile Court, please visit the Court's website at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc/Pages/coming-to-fjc.aspx>.

For information regarding Superior Court Main Campus, please visit the Court's website at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc/Pages/coming-to-main-campus.aspx>.

Community Standards per the Thurston County Health Officer

The Court is actively working with Thurston County Public Health and Services and Facilities to ensure that the Court addresses the health and well-being of court employees, litigants, attorneys, and the general public while performing its constitutional and statutory duties. Please see Thurston County Health Director, Dr. Yu's memorandum dated April 28, 2020. (Attached to Emergency Order No. 4).

Contacting Court Staff and Updates

The Courthouses are open, however, the Court is continuing to encourage all individuals to access services of the Clerk and Court Administration remotely, if possible. Contact information for both offices is below:

Court Administration: Email contact information can be found on the website at: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc>: or by calling (360) 709-3295

Clerk Office: Email Contact: county_clerk@co.thurston.wa.us or by calling (360)786-5430

Updates will continue to be posted on the Court's website at: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc/Pages/default.aspx>

Thank you all for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Please stay safe.