

IN THE MATTER OF
STATEWIDE RESPONSE BY
STATE COURTS TO THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

1. **Due to the imminent threat of contagion**, the Bellingham Municipal courthouse is closed to the public until further notice. Communications with the Court may be conducted electronically or by telephone. Documents may be filed electronically or by mail.
2. **Hearings no longer held in person.** Unless otherwise ordered by a judicial officer under extraordinary circumstances, and effective on March 23, 2020, all hearings shall be held either telephonically, by video, or in writing upon the pleadings;
3. **Continuance of arraignments.**
 - a) All arraignments shall be continued to a date after April 24, 2020.
 - b) For all cases subject to Local Rule 2, a first appearance on the original date set for the arraignment shall be held telephonically to determine probable cause, bail and release conditions.
 - c) Good cause exists under CrRLJ 4.1 to extend the arraignment dates.
4. **Ex parte orders.** As provided by Washington Supreme Court Corrected Order No. 25700-B-607, the Court may enter no contact orders ex parte upon a finding of probable cause for a sex offense, domestic violence offense, stalking offense or harassment offense. Service of said orders shall be made by mail, if practical.
5. **Motions.** All motions that are agreed shall be submitted, electronically or in writing, for the Court's consideration, along with a proposed order, in written or electronic form. All motions that are not agreed, other than motions relating to pretrial release or bail, shall be set after April 24, 2020 unless ordered by a judicial officer, under extraordinary circumstances.

6. **Probation review hearings.** All probation review hearings shall be stricken where the probationer is deemed to be in current compliance.
7. **In custody cases.**
 - a) The Clerk shall appoint counsel as soon as practical for all in-custody defendants not immediately released unless the clerk is aware that counsel has already appeared or will appear.
 - b) Defense counsel shall promptly confer with their in-custody clients prior to their first in-court appearance. If this condition is not met, the Court shall continue the case to the next practical in-custody calendar.
8. **Acting presiding judge.** In the absence of the elected Judge, the Commissioner shall be the acting presiding judge, as previously ordered. In the absence of both the Judge and the Commissioner, the Court Administrator is hereby authorized to designate any Judge Pro Tem of the Court to serve as the acting presiding judge until the return of the Judge and/or Commissioner.

DATED this 20th day of March, 2020.



Judge Debra Lev, Presiding