

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE)
BY STATE COURTS TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC)
HEALTH EMERGENCY)
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**TEMPORARY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2020-04**

The Court, being fully informed, hereby issues the following FINDINGS:

1. The Court hereby incorporates all findings in Bellingham Municipal Court Temporary Administrative Orders No. 2020-01, 2020-2, and 2020-3;
2. The Court hereby incorporates all findings in Washington Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-606, Second Administrative Order No. 20-2-00001-37, Second Revised and Extended Order Regarding Court Operations No. 25700-B-618, and Order Re: Modification of Jury Trial Proceedings No. 25700-B-631; and
3. The Court finds the terms of this order are necessary "to protect health and safety" as set forth in Washington Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-631, paragraph 9, based upon current health conditions and the physical location, design, and limitations of the Bellingham Municipal Court Building, which is currently closed to the public due to the public health emergency. To reduce the danger of spreading the Covid-19 virus, protect court visitors, potential jurors, staff and other participants, and to ensure sufficient time to develop reasonable safety measures are developed and in place to minimize the public health emergency, jury trials must be continued to a later date as set forth in this Order.
4. The Court finds that the public health emergency and local conditions constitutes unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances affecting the right to trial beyond the control of the Court and the parties, as set forth in CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8).

The Court, therefore, hereby issues the following EMERGENCY ORDERS:

1. **INCORPORATION OF PRIOR ORDER.** All emergency orders set forth in Temporary Administrative Order 2020-03 remain in effect, subject only to the changes set forth below.
2. **JURY TRIALS.** Pursuant to Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-631, Jury trial proceedings and schedules in Bellingham Municipal Court are hereby modified as follows:
 - a. No jury trials shall be set until a date on or after September 15, 2020.

- b. Jury trials currently scheduled before September 15, 2020, shall be continued at the readiness hearing, or, if agreed in writing by both parties and approved in writing by a judicial officer, to a later jury trial date with revised readiness and status hearing dates.
- c. The Court hereby adopts changes to peremptory challenges as set forth in paragraph 7 of Washington Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-631.
- d. Procedures for selecting jurors will be in accord with Washington Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-631, paragraph 2, and as implemented by Whatcom County's jury coordinator pursuant to direction from the Whatcom County courts.
- e. Speedy trial time for all current criminal cases in Bellingham Municipal Court is excluded until September 15, 2020, as provided by CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8) and pursuant to the above findings.

DATED this 22nd day of June, 2020.



Judge Debra Lev, Presiding