

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY THE COURT
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19
RE:

Temporary Administrative Order
No. 2020 - 02

Excusing or Rescheduling for Jury Duty

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has determined the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) has now reached worldwide pandemic levels; and

WHEREAS, people within Washington State and Whatcom County have been diagnosed with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the Whatcom County Executive has declared a Public Health Emergency for the County due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Health Department, per Dr. Greg Stern, has issued new recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 within Whatcom County which include, among other actions, the cancellation or postponement of non-essential public gatherings and that certain higher risk target populations should stay at home away from large groups of people as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, the calling together of prospective jurors and the jury selection process necessarily requires exposure to large groups of people which is a medically contraindicated activity under the current states of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 which grants this Court emergency authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions as deemed warranted to address the current COVID-19 public health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Until further Order of the Court, those who report to the Jury Coordinator that they meet any of the following criteria shall be excused or rescheduled from jury service:

1. Have a chronic health condition such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes;
2. Have a weakened immune system;

3. Are pregnant;
4. Are age 60 or older and do not wish to report for jury duty, or
5. Are sick or have recently been in contact with someone who is sick.

DATED this 11th day of March 2020.



David M. Grant, Presiding Judge