

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

COVID-19 Press Release Updated March 18, 2020

Thurston County Superior Court issued Administrative Emergency Order no. 1 on March 13, 2020. Today, the Court issued Administrative Emergency Order no. 2, which builds on the first Order. Below is a list of all of the actions at Main Campus and Family and Juvenile Court, effective March 18, 2020, to ensure that the Court protects the health and well-being of court employees, litigants, attorneys, and the general public while performing our Constitutional duties.

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

Trials

All jury trials are suspended through May 15, 2020, except for the case currently being heard. All civil trials (both jury and bench) continue to be suspended through May 15, 2020. Dependency, Termination, Family Law, and Unlawful Detainer trials are suspended.

The Court will conduct Juvenile Offender in-custody trials and ITA bench trials.

Main Campus Criminal Calendars

The Court suspends the following Adult Criminal Calendars occurring at Main Campus:

- Evidentiary;
- Suppression;
- Miscellaneous Motions (both After Sentencing and Pending);
- Out of Custody Omnibus (beginning week of March 23, 2020);
- First Look;
- Walk-Ons;
- Confirmed Trial and Discovery Hearings (after March 18, 2020);
- Treatment Reviews and Non-Compliance; and
- Criminal Ex-Parte (criminal ex-parte matters shall be brought to a Judicial Officer during any criminal calendar).

The following criminal calendars will not be suspended at this time with continued efforts to minimize unnecessary appearances and encourage social distancing:

- Preliminary Appearances,

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

- Arraignment hearings,
- Trial Confirmation Hearings,
- Change of Plea and Sentencing Hearings,
- In-Custody Omnibus Hearings,
- Competency Hearings, and
- Agreed motions – submitted through ex parte process.
- Emergent criminal motions will be heard at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday (previously the Evidentiary Calendar) only by special set. Requests for emergent motions will be screened when presented Ex-Parte and set by a Judicial Officer.

Main Campus Civil Calendars

Superior Court will only hear emergent or time sensitive matters on civil calendars (Friday MC civil Calendars). Non-emergent motions will be struck, unless otherwise specified. Unless otherwise directed, emergent motions will be heard without oral argument or heard telephonically. Currently scheduled dispositive motions, whether emergent or not, may be struck or considered by the Court in its discretion. Administrative Law Reviews will be rescheduled unless otherwise specified.

Civil Ex-Parte calendar at 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday will continue; we ask that only emergent or time sensitive matters be addressed.

Unlawful Detainer calendars are canceled until April 3, 2020. The Court will be issuing new Show Cause Orders and working on a telephonic appearance process that will be posted on the court's website.

Involuntary Treatment Calendars are proceeding at each location at this time.

Family and Juvenile Court Calendars

All hearings, except Shelter Care Hearings and Juvenile Hearings shall be heard by phone.

Please ensure that if you are appearing telephonically, you file proposed orders ahead of time and call 360-709-3295 to make arrangements to appear by phone, as soon as possible but no later than 3:00 pm the day before your hearing, if possible.

Emergent motions only

For the following calendars, litigants and attorneys are encouraged to only file motions regarding emergent issues:

- Family Law and Family Law Self Represented Calendars
- Judge's Motion, Revision, Relocation Calendars
- Non Parental Custody Calendar
- Probate & Guardianship
- State Family Law

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- Miscellaneous Juvenile Offender Hearings

Calendar availability through May 15, 2020 will be limited.

Suspended Calendars and events at Family and Juvenile Court

The following calendars and events are suspended through May 15, 2020, and any matters currently scheduled should be continued until after May 15, 2020:

- Domestic Violence Protection Order Compliance Reviews (will be rescheduled by Court Administration)
- Youth at Risk and CHINS
- Truancy
- Lunchtime Education
- Orientation

Dependency Calendars

Each Judge is managing their assigned Wednesday Dependency and Monday Dependency calendars.

FJC- Ex-Parte Calendars

- 8:55 am will be only for entry of agreed orders.
- 4:00 pm will be only for contested matters.

Judges Copies

All requirements for Judge's Copies are suspended. Judge's Copies shall not be submitted.

The Court will continue to make changes in our operations as conditions evolve. Updates will continue to be posted on the Court's website at: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc>.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.