SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR CLARK COUNTY

GENERAL ORDER 20-13

COVID-19 MITIGATION IN CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUVENILE COURTHOUSE, AND FAMILY LAW ANNEX

Adopted: June 16, 2020

Effective: June 22, 2020

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-625 (Filed May 28, 2020), suspending all civil and criminal jury trials until after July 6, 2020, in addition to granting emergency authority to this Court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, April 2, 2020 and again on May 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington has added additional restrictions on the citizens of the State of Washington due to the declared state of emergency concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) with his Proclamations;

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VANCOUVER, WA 98660

WHEREAS, this Court issued its Emergency General Orders 20-06, 20-07, 20-08, 20-09, 20-10, 20-11, and 20-12 to respond to the state of emergency and mitigate the effect of COVID-19; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. Any person who is sick or in quarantine shall not enter the Clark County Courthouse, Juvenile Courthouse, or the Family Law Annex;

2. Staff and visitors are expected to practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently or by using hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable;

3. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned with disinfectant;

4. Social distancing measures will be strictly enforced to the greatest extent practicable in all Courtrooms and public areas in the Clark County Courthouse, Juvenile Courthouse and Family Law Annex. Courtrooms and court administration areas have been equipped with social distancing markers to illustrate appropriate distancing. Each individual courtroom will have a limited capacity due to social distancing.

5. All persons in the Clark County Courthouse, Juvenile Courthouse or the Family Law Annex shall be required to wear a mask while in the public areas building, unless exempted under paragraph 7 below. Any person who is not wearing a mask, and who refuses to wear an offered disposable mask, shall be refused entry by Courthouse Security staff. Courthouse Security staff may also remove any person ordered from the building for improper removal of a mask. Any person who believes that he or she is exempt from this requirement shall be directed to contact Court Administration.

6. During a court proceeding, the presiding judicial officer may remove her or his mask and may direct an active participant to remove a mask, based upon a finding that removal is necessary to facilitate clear communication on the record, or to promote due process. For public safety reasons, removal shall be limited in scope and duration. "Active participant" includes the judge, court staff, an interpreter, a party, attorney for a party and a witness.

7. The following individuals do not need to wear a mask:
   a) Any child aged two years or less;
   b) Any child aged 12 years or less unless parents and caregivers supervise the use of face coverings by children to avoid misuse;
   c) Any individual who has a physical disability that prevents easily wearing or removing a face covering;

d) Any individual who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication or an individual who is communicating with a person who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication;

e) Any individual who has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health-related reasons;

f) Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

8. Clark County Superior Court may adopt further restrictions as necessary to respond to the current state of emergency in order to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 and will do so by further court order.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2020

Scott A. Collier, Presiding Judge

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