FILED
MAR - 4 2020
WASHINGTON STATE
SUPREME COURT

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY WASHINGTON STATE COURTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN WASHINGTON STATE	)	ORDER NO. 25700-B-602

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties in the state of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, it may become necessary for courts in these counties to close, relocate, or otherwise significantly modify their regular operations; and

WHEREAS, the presiding judges in these counties need sufficient authority to effectively administer their courts in response to this state of emergency, including authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Presiding Judges of the Washington courts are authorized to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current public health emergency;
2. Each court shall immediately transmit copies of emergency local rules adopted or modified to address the public health emergency to the Administrative Office of the Courts in lieu of the requirements of General Rule 7;
3. Each court that closes pursuant to this Order or General Rule 21 shall sign an administrative order closing the court, file the original with the clerk of the affected court, and notify the Administrative Office of the Courts as soon as practicable.

4. Each court shall, as soon as practicable, publish in full all rules or orders adopted or modified to address this public health emergency on its local website.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 4th day of March, 2020.

For the Court

Stephens, C.J.

CHIEF JUSTICE DEBRA L. STEPHENS