

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR LEWIS COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY  
LEWIS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO  
THE WASHINGTON STATE  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE  
COURTS' INFORMATION SYSTEM  
DISRUPTION

**EMERGENCY ORDER 2024-01**

**Introduction**

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2024 the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) notified courts across the State of Washington that a significant disruption had occurred to information systems that are hosted by the AOC due to “unauthorized activity on the Washington Courts network,” which impacts the operations of the Superior Court and Clerk’s Offices across the State of Washington.

WHEREAS, Washington Courts, including Lewis County, are unable to access any systems or databases hosted by the AOC, and cannot access Odyssey, the Odyssey Portal, JIS/JABS (criminal history and related case database) and therefore have limited access to case information, calendars, dockets, and filed documents.

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington requires that judicial officers consult certain databases prior to entering certain orders.

WHEREAS, the disruption has had a significant impact on court operations and the AOC has not identified a date on which access to all systems will resume.

WHEREAS, emergency procedures that have been implemented are time consuming and require additional resource and therefore, the Court must take steps to limit its operations to ensure that the most time sensitive matters can proceed without delay.

WHEREAS, Washington State Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-720, issued November 8, 2024, authorizes this court to enact local emergency rules to respond to this court operations emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to continue the essential work of the Lewis County Superior Court and the Superior Court Clerk during the AOC system disruption, Lewis County Superior Court adopts the following rules and procedures immediately and on an emergent basis:

### **REQUEST TO LIMIT HEARINGS**

The Lewis County Superior Court and stakeholders are working hard to maintain operations. However, in order to help avoid more sweeping limitations on hearings, the Court encourages parties to limit motions and hearings to emergent or time-sensitive matters at this time. **Parties are encouraged to strike and re-note hearings wherever possible.**

### **E-FILING**

E-Filing shall be temporarily suspended until further notice. Parties and counsel shall deliver any document submitted for filing to the Lewis County Superior Court Clerk's Office. The exception to this is that electronic petitions for protection orders per RCW 7.105.105 may be submitted, but will require an alternative means of providing a basis for determining criminal history and/or conflicting order checks, as contemplated below.

### **SUSPENDED HEARINGS and ENTRY OF ORDERS**

Because of the inability to access certain information systems, and the ongoing lack of certainty about filed documents, the Court is unable to and therefore will not take action on the

following types of motions/petitions:

- Motions for default
- Entry of a final parenting plan
- Entry of a full protection order
- Motions to remit Legal Financial Obligations
- Guardianship Orders Appointing Guardian/Conservator
- Any other motion/petition that cannot statutorily be decided without a review of an AOC system or database that cannot currently be accessed
- **ANY MATTER THAT REQUIRES THE COURT TO REVIEW DOCUMENTS IN A FILE—I.E., ANY CONTESTED MATTER.**

Once access to the AOC systems has resumed, the Court will take action on any pending or filed motions.

**During the period from November 12, 2024 to November 18, 2024, judicial officers will preside over all regularly-scheduled dockets in order to accept agreed orders or continue matters to a future docket.**

### **DISCRETION TO DECLINE TO HEAR A MOTION**

The Court relies on the AOC informational systems when ruling on many matters, even when it is not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains discretion to decline to hear a motion where the judicial offers lack vital information based on the AOC outage. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Immediate Temporary Restraining Orders/Protection Orders

- Emergency Minor Guardianships
- Minor Guardianships

If a party wishes to proceed on one of the above case types, they must present, at a minimum, a WATCH background check on all parties and anyone over the age of 16 who resides in the home of any party. Alternatively, the court may take in-person sworn testimony in lieu of the requirement to consult a background / order conflict check on electronically-submitted petitions for protection orders.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

This Order will take effect November 12, 2024 and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by further court order.

DATED this \_\_ day of November, 2024

    /S/ J. Andrew Toynbee  
J. Andrew Toynbee  
Presiding Judge