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2
3 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR LEWIS COUNTY

4 In Re:

5 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION LIMITING
6 COURT OPERATIONS RESULTING
7 FROM PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

GENERAL ORDER NO.

GR 21

8 Pursuant to General Rule (GR) 21(a), "A court may be closed if weather,
9 technological failure or other hazardous or emergency conditions or events are or become
10 such that the safety and welfare of the employees are threatened or the court is unable to
11 operate or demands immediate action to protect the court, its employees or property.
12 Closure may be ordered by the...presiding... judge in his or her discretion during the
13 pendency of such conditions or events."

14 As of the date of this order, there is a potential public health emergency currently
15 within the state of Washington. Although **no current cases are reported within the**
16 **boundaries of Lewis County, Washington**, proactive steps are necessary to protect the
17 residents of Lewis County and those seeking to use/access the justice system within Lewis
18 County.

19 As of the date of this order, there are over 130 reported cases of COVID-19 within
20 the state of Washington with 19 deaths being reported. Based upon the symptoms, many
21 may believe they are suffering flu-like symptoms and, unknowingly, spread the virus. Others
22 may not yet be suffering symptoms while spreading the virus.

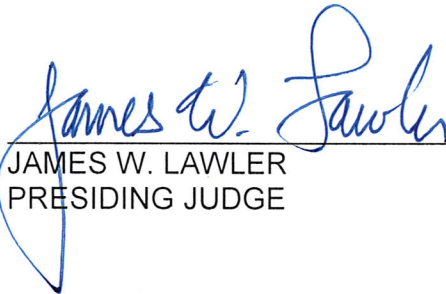
23 Based upon information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the
24 recommendations of the Public Health Officer for Lewis County as well as the Director of
25 Public Health for Lewis County, the Lewis County Superior Court is taking the following
26 actions (Orders):

1. All jury panels currently scheduled March 9-20, 2020, are now rescheduled to the week of March 23, 2020.
2. Scheduling for all matters currently scheduled for jury trial between March 9-23, 2020 will be addressed on a case by case basis

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3. As to criminal jury trials, the court finds, pursuant to CrR 3.3(f), any continuances resulting from the unavailability of jurors are required in the administration of justice as the court has a reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors for trials.
4. The time periods set forth in this General Order are excluded periods for the purposes of computing time for trial. See CrR 3.3(e)(3).
5. Any continuances resulting from this order best serve the ends of justice and protect the rights of those impacted by the continuances, including defendants.
6. Such continuances will not prejudice any defendant impacted and each case impacted will, in addition to this order, be addressed on a case by case basis.
7. At this time, no other hearings will be impacted.
8. The Lewis County Superior Court remains open and staff will be available. The public is encouraged to call the Lewis County Superior Court Clerk with any questions regarding scheduling.

DATED this 9th day of March, 2020.



JAMES W. LAWLER
PRESIDING JUDGE