

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR SKAGIT COUNTY and in the MUNICIPAL COURTS
OF ANACORTES, BURLINGTON, and MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF

ORDER SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS

EMERGENCY COVID 19 RESPONSE

NO. 21-8

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); and on March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a national emergency due to the same public health emergency; and on February 24, 2021 President Biden continued the national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Skagit County have declared a state of emergency in Skagit County due to the same public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted various administrative orders authorizing certain specific emergency measures to address the safety of the public and of court employees; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains an ongoing threat to the health of the people of Skagit County; and

WHEREAS, the infection, hospitalization rate, and numbers of COVID 19 patients in ICU beds has increased substantially over the past month; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of the Skagit County population who are fully vaccinated remains insufficient to effectively stop the spread of COVID 19 infections; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible for vaccination, and

WHEREAS, the Pfizer COVID 19 vaccine has been fully approved by the FDA for individuals aged 12 and older, and

WHEREAS, the Skagit County District and Municipal Courts are ill equipped to effectively comply with social distancing recommendations to limit the spread of the virus, and therefore jury trials in particular jeopardize the health and safety of jurors,

litigants, attorneys, judges, court staff, and members of the public due to the numbers of people who must be in the courtrooms during jury selection;

NOW, THEREFORE:

Jury trials will be suspended in all departments of Skagit County District and Municipal Courts effective immediately and resume on October 4, 2021, absent the need for further suspension in order to protect the health and safety of court personnel, litigants, lawyers, and the public.

All provisions of Administrative Order 21-7 which are not inconsistent with this order shall remain in full force and effect.

DATED THIS 25th day of August, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Edmonds Goddard", written over a horizontal line.

Dianne Edmonds Goddard, District
Court Judge, Presiding