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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF MASON

SUPERIOR COURT OF WA.
SHARON K. FOGO

BY _____ DEPUTY

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE)
TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH)
)
)
) RE: CRIMINAL MATTERS

NO. 22-2-00002-23

THIS MATTER has come before the Court Sua Sponte, the Court finds as follows:

The Supreme Court of Washington has issued emergency orders regarding Superior Court operations in response to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The orders have found that the serious danger posed by COVID-19 is good cause to grant 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

The Court entered an Administrative Order Re: Criminal Matters on February 3, 2022. The Order was based, in part, upon concerns expressed by the Mason County Director of Community Services regarding the recent increase of the COVID-19 virus in the community and his recommendation that in-person hearings should be suspended at that time. The Court has remained in contact with the Mason County Director of Community Services who has signified a reduction of the COVID-19 virus in the community and no longer recommends a suspension of in-person hearings.

Based upon the above and adopting the further findings as set forth in the above-described Supreme Court orders, the Mason County Superior Court is taking the following actions and entering the following Orders:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Amendment to the Administrative Criminal Order of February 3, 2022.** The Mason County Superior Court Administrative Order Re: Criminal Matters, entered on February 3, 2022, is amended and restated as set forth below:
2. **Hybrid Electronic/In Person Out of Custody Hearings.** The Court will continue to offer virtual hearings by Zoom or other platform. The parties may appear virtually or in person at their discretion unless required to appear in person by the court or the hearing itself requires an in-person appearance as described in this order. The schedules for the dockets will remain unchanged, maintaining the alphabetical scheduling for the Monday Docket based upon the Defendant's last name, A-H at 9:00 a.m.; I-P at 10:30 a.m.; and Q-Z at 3:00 pm. The Tuesday docket will continue to be held at 9:00 a.m. for all matters. The virtual dockets will occur on the "Zoom" conferencing or other Court approved platform. Change of Plea Hearings will be allowed electronically only upon agreement of all parties and only if all parties appear by video or in person.
3. **Electronic In Custody Hearings.** All in custody Defendants who have a matter on the Criminal Docket (both Monday regular docket and the Tuesday Show Cause docket) will appear by video, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. All other participants to the hearings shall appear either electronically through "Zoom" conferencing or other Court approved platform, or in person. Change of Plea Hearings will be allowed by video, only upon agreement of all parties.
4. **Special Set Hearings.** All special set criminal hearings (such as CrR 3.5 or 3.6 hearings) will continue to be held virtually with the parties and the public able to attend in person. The hearings will continue to be made available on the "Zoom" conferencing or other Court approved platform.
5. **Sentencing Hearings.** The Defendant, his/her attorney and the representative of the State shall appear in person at all sentencing hearings, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Any victims/victim representatives may appear electronically through "Zoom" conferencing or other Court approved platform or in person.
6. **Trials.** All trials will be held in person.

DATED this 11th day of March, 2022.


Daniel L. Goodell
Presiding Judge