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SUPERIOR COURT OF WA.
SHARON K. FOGO

BY _____ DEPUTY

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF MASON**

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE)
TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH) AMENDED
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)
) RE: DEPENDENCY
) 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 ongoing 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

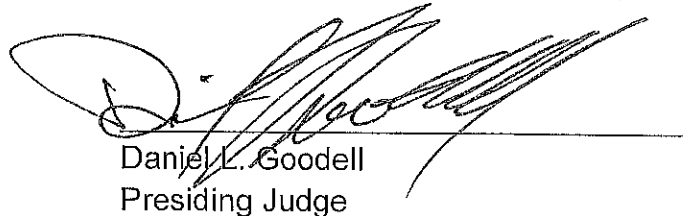
The Court entered an Administrative Order Re: Dependency Matters on January 5, 2022. The Order was based, in part, upon concerns expressed by the Mason County Director of Community Services regarding the recent increase of the COVID-19 virus in the community and his recommendation that in-person hearings 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 Order Regarding Dependency Matters of January 5, 2022.** The Mason County Superior Court Administrative Order Re: Dependency Matters, entered on January 5, 2022, is amended and restated as set forth below:
2. **Dependency 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.
3. **Shelter Care, Fact-Finding/Disposition Hearings.** All Shelter Care, Fact-Finding/Disposition hearings will be held in person. However, Shelter Care, Fact-Finding/Disposition hearings may be held virtually, upon prior approval of the Court. The virtual hearings will occur on the "Zoom" conferencing or other Court approved platform.

DATED this 11th day of March, 2022.



Daniel L. Goodell
Presiding Judge