

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT

'20 MAR 25 12:25

COWLITZ CO. CLERK
STACEY MYKLEBUST

BY _____

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR COWLITZ COUNTY

**IN RE THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY
COWLITZ COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN
COWLITZ COUNTY AND THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON**

**No. 2020-0003-08
EMERGENCY ORDER No. 3
RE: COURT OPERATIONS -
ITA HEARINGS**

**Order Expanding Time for Probable Cause Hearing for Involuntary
Treatment Act (ITA) Hearings**

In an effort to minimize the threat to well-being and health caused by the COVID-19 virus, the Court does hereby enact an emergency change to the timeframes of the probable cause hearing of the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) (RCW 71.05) that is held within the Peace Health/St. John's Medical Center's evaluation and treatment facility.

The Court does hereby Order the following changes:

1. When a person is detained under an allegation the she/he suffers from a mental disorder that presents an imminent likelihood of serious harm, or is in imminent danger because of being gravely disabled, the time requirement in which the probable cause hearing shall

1 occur is hereby increased from within 72 hours to within 168 hours. This time
2 computation of the 168 hours shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

- 3 2. All parties, witnesses, attorneys, court personnel (clerk and judge), and witnesses are
4 emphatically encouraged to appear either telephonically or by audio/video conferencing.
- 5 3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all external witnesses (e.g. police officers, members of
6 the public, family members, social workers, etc.) **shall** testify telephonically or via video
7 conferencing.

8 This Order shall take effect immediately.

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10 Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.

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15 Superior Court Judge Michael Evans
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