

Pursuant to WA Supreme Court Order No. 25700-B-602 the Mason County Superior Court has determined that the following procedures are necessary to ensure the health and safety of persons accessing or working in the court systems.

Out of Custody. Commencing immediately, all out of custody Defendants who have a matter on the Criminal Docket will appear telephonically. Beginning March 18, 2020, all Attorneys representing out of custody Defendants will also appear telephonically. The Court is authorizing all hearings to be held telephonically except for the entry of pleas, sentencings and trials.

In Custody. Commencing immediately, all in custody Defendants who have a matter on the Criminal Docket will appear by video. The Court is authorizing all hearings to be held by video except for the trials. Video pleas and sentencings will be allowed by agreement of the Defendant and with prior approval of the Court.

Omnibus Hearings. Commencing immediately, no Defendants will be appearing for omnibus hearings, either in person or by telephone.

Trials and Sentencings. All trials and sentencings, except for agreed video sentencings for in-custody Defendants, are suspended for a period of 30 days. The Court expressly finds that this delay is an excluded period under the criminal court rules.

Criminal Dockets, March 16 and 17, 2020. Defense Counsel are instructed to contact their clients and inform them not to come to court on March 16th and 17th for the scheduled hearings, but be available by phone throughout the day. It is important for the defense counsel to arrange and have a good phone number from their client. At the time that a matter is called by the Court, the attorney will dial their client's phone number from the bench phone to bring the Defendant before the Court. If Defense Counsel are unable to reach their client(s) prior to the hearing date and the Defendant appears in person, then the Defense Counsel will then obtain a good phone number and send their client away from the Court. Defense Counsel will notify the Court if their client does not have a phone to be contacted so appropriate accommodations may be arranged..