

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT

DEFENSE COALITION PROPOSED  
EMERGENCY ORDERS RE COVID 19 –  
JUVENILE JUSTICE

DECLARATION OF MARYBETH  
QUERAL

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MARYBETH QUERAL declares under penalty of perjury:

I am the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Juvenile Rehabilitation for the State of Washington. As such I am familiar with the rules and protocols governing Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR), which is responsible for the detention, treatment, rehabilitation and welfare of youth committed to JR's custody pursuant to juvenile adjudications and dispositions in the State of Washington. As a citizen and as an administrator I am acutely aware of the health crisis identified as COVID 19, and the risks associated with exposure to this virus. The purpose of this declaration is to describe the protocols in place, the steps being taken, and the considerations being given to the proper care and welfare of youth, staff, and providers involved in residential facilities operated by JR.

In consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) as well as other State agencies that operate 24/7 facilities and are similarly situated, JR has established appropriate signage and practices embracing best practice as it relates to prevention of the spread of the virus. Youth are consistently and repeatedly instructed and encouraged to practice these measures, as are staff and providers. Face to face visitation has been temporarily halted, with additional phone and video contact being provided. Point of entry protocols require that anyone, including staff, vendors or providers, must be screened and answer a series of questions approved by DOH before entering a JR facility. In addition, at the three secure facilities, a higher level of screening, to include temperature taking, is in place . When additional medical supplies are received, thermometers will be used for screening at all eight community facilities. If anyone has a temperature above 100.4, answers affirmatively to one of the screening questions, or declines to participate in the screening, entry is refused. Youth referred to JR by the juvenile court are also evaluated and appropriate quarantine steps taken should there be adequate reason. Treatment programs for youth have been modified to reduce the size of groups during activities, the use of online learning increased, and all activities are established with an eye toward the safety of youth and staff. With the activation of infectious disease protocols and the Continuity of Operation Plans (COOP), contingency plans are in place should a youth or staff become symptomatic or receive a positive diagnosis for this virus. While youth in this age group are generally considered at low risk, JR takes their health and safety very seriously. Significant cleaning practices have been implemented and executed, focusing on frequently touched surfaces, as well as the common areas used by staff and youth.

JR has experienced staffing challenges similar to other essential businesses and State agencies due to the current health pandemic. The ability to support youth access to telephonic court processes within a ten day timeframe would be very limited with current staffing challenges.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

DATED: March 31, 2020.  
PLACE: TACOMA, WASHINGTON.



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MARYBETH QUERAL  
Assistant Secretary, Juvenile Rehabilitation