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IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

In Re:
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION
LIMITING COURT OPERATIONS RE:
JURY TRIALS RESULTING FROM
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

GENERAL ORDER NO.

GR21

WHEREAS, the state and this county have received a rapid rollout of COVID-19 vaccine and continue to see a significant decline in the numbers of people showing symptoms of, being diagnosed with and hospitalized for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Yakima County moved to Phase 3 in the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery on March 22, 2021 and it is expected that Governor Inslee will allow for a statewide reopening on June 30, 2021 based on the current COVID-19 metrics. Further, additional modifications have been put in place related to masking and social distancing requirements by local, state and federal authorities in response to the robust rollout of COVID-19 vaccine. Specifically, fully vaccinated individuals (with some exceptions for particular settings) are not required to wear face coverings or socially distance. Based upon these changes and upon consultation and review of available information from the Yakima County Health Department, local hospitals and continued

1 recommendations from the Health Department and Center for Disease Control
2 concerning attempts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus, and FURTHER,
3 based upon all the foregoing sources of information, the decrease in positive COVID-19
4 rates in Yakima County, and predictions that decreases will continue, this Court finds
5 that now it is reasonably feasible and safe to resume more normal court operations to
6 include jury trials.; and

7 WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No.
8 25700-B-602 granting our District Court emergency authority to adopt, modify, and
9 suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations,
10 as warranted to address the current state of emergency;


11 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 12 1. The Court, upon its own motion, and pursuant to Washington State Supreme
13 Court Order 25700-B-646 i-f12, resumed jury trials effective March 22, 2021 in
14 accordance with the revised safety plan posted on the District Court webpage at
15 www.yakimacounty.us/districtcourt.
- 16 2. All civil jury trials resumed effective March 22, 2021 in accordance with the
17 revised safety plan posted on the District Court webpage at
18 www.yakimacounty.us/districtcourt.
- 19 3. The mandate that all persons continue to wear masks is hereby modified to
20 reflect the most current requirements of local, state and federal authorities.
21 Specifically, that unvaccinated persons are still required to wear a mask and
22 maintain social distancing when attending court proceedings or otherwise

1 conducting court business to include Adult Probation Services in either of the
2 District Court locations.

- 3 4. This Order will be regularly reviewed and modified as necessary to address the
4 ongoing state of emergency.

5 Dated this 9th day of June 2021.

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8 Alfred G. Schweppe, Presiding Judge
9 Yakima County District Court
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