

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR GRANT COUNTY

IN RE: EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE COURTS INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SERVICE OUTAGE

November 13th, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 24-01

WHEREAS on November 3, 2024, the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) notified courts across the State of Washington that a significant disruption had occurred to information systems that are hosted by the AOC due to “unauthorized activity on the Washington Courts network”;

WHEREAS Washington Courts, including Grant County District Court, are unable to access any systems or databases hosted by AOC including but not limited to the Judicial Information System (JIS) and the Abstract of Driving Record (ADR), and therefore have limited or no access to Washington State case information, Washington State criminal history, Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) records, and Washington State Protection Order history;

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington requires that judicial officers consult certain databases prior to entering certain orders;

WHEREAS, the disruption to AOC systems has had a significant impact on court operations and AOC has not identified a date on which access to all systems will resume;

WHEREAS, because emergency procedures that have been implemented are time consuming and require additional resources, the Court must take steps to limit its operations and modify its processes to ensure that the most time sensitive matters can proceed without delay;

WHEREAS, the Grant County District Court has limited access to NCIC/III nationwide criminal histories through probation or the prosecuting attorney;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024 the Washington State Supreme Court promulgated Emergency Administrative Order No. 25700-B-720 allowing Washington Courts to expand or extend time rules on criminal cases regarding filing, speedy trial, sentencing, and out of custody arraignments, and speedy infraction filings, hearings, and disposition, if the unavailability of the AOC networks and databases hinders the local court’s ability to meet said deadlines or process filings submitted by litigants, and allowing courts to use other databases to get information not available via JIS or DOL as required by statute;

WHEREAS, the following expansion and extensions of rules are necessary because of the unavailability of the AOC networks and databases in order for Grant County District Court to meet deadlines, avoid date entry backlog, process filings submitted by litigants, and effectively decide cases;

NOW THEREFORE, in order to continue the essential work of the Grant County District Court during the AOC system disruption, Grant County District Court adopts the following rules and procedures immediately and, on an emergency basis;

SUSPENDED COURT RULES

1. All court rules, policies, and procedures regarding filing, scheduling, docketing, and transmitting information to AOC are extended by 18 days from November 14, 2024 or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.

2. All time requirements of CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, CrRLJ 4.7, IRLJ 2.1, IRLJ 2.6 (both civil infractions and vehicle related violations) and any other court rule, policy or procedure governing 'time' is hereby extended for 18 days from November 14, 2024 or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.

CASE TYPES NOT AFFECTED

Because of the inability to access certain information systems, the Court is unable and therefore will not act on any cases, except as listed below, in Grant County District Court for at least 18 days from November 14, 2024 or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later:

1. Any hearing in which the Defendant is in custody, including but not limited to the weekly jail docket (Wednesdays at 8:30)
2. Any mandatory first appearance hearings (in or out of custody)
3. Therapeutic Court / Community Court
4. Civil Non-Jury Trial(s) set in Courtroom 301 in Ephrata on 11/21-22
5. Anti-Harassment hearings currently scheduled

JURY TRIALS

1. All jury trials and trial readiness hearings currently set for the month of November are reset 4 (four) weeks from their current dates.
 - a. The Court finds and concludes in accordance with CrRLJ 3.3(g)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(f)(2) that all continuances granted or ordered by this court pursuant to this order are (1) due to unavoidable or unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the court or the parties; (2) required for the administration of justice; (3) that good cause

- exists for such continuances; and (4) that criminal defendants will not be prejudiced in the presentation of their defenses by such continuances.
- b. In all cases with trials continued pursuant to this Order, the allowable time for trial shall not expire earlier than 30 days after the new trial setting.
2. OTHER CRIMINAL HEARINGS: All hearings during the weeks of November 18-22 and November 25-29, excluding Community Court hearings and any hearing in which the defendant is in custody, are reset precisely 4 weeks from the date originally set (unless new date falls on a holiday where the case will be set one week later).
- a. The Court will accept agreed motions to continue that reset current court dates to alternate dates than proposed above. The Court finds and concludes in accordance with CrRLJ 3.3(f) that all continuances granted ordered by the Court pursuant to this Order are required in the administration of justice and further finds that good cause exists for such continuances and that criminal defendants will not be prejudiced in the presentation of their defenses by any such continuances.
 - b. Speedy trial waivers with later commencement date resulting in a prolonged continuance will be accepted and are encouraged by the Court.
3. OTHER CIVIL HEARINGS: All hearings during the weeks of November 18-22 and November 25-29, are reset precisely 4 weeks from the date originally set (unless new date falls on a holiday where the case will be set one week later). The court will consider emergency civil hearings, including but not limited to Anti-Harassment and No-Contact Order hearings, upon ex-parte presentation. Good cause may be found to extend ex-parte orders until a hearing can be held.

DISCRETION TO CONTINUE A HEARING

The Court relies on AOC informational systems when ruling on many matters, even when it is not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains discretion to continue a motion hearing for which the judicial officer lacks vital information based on the AOC outage. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Temporary & Full Anti-Harassment Order or Protection Order hearings
2. Any and all emergency ex-parte hearings.

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that this Order shall take effect on November 14, 2024 and will remain in effect until December 2nd, 2024 or until further order of this court.

11/13/2024

Date



Judge Brian D. Barlow
District Court Judge, Presiding