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PIERCE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
BY AOC SYSTEM OUTAGE

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2024-2

WHEREAS On November 3, 2024, Washington State's Administrative Office of the Courts' (AOC) statewide database and information systems were taken off-line and the Court's ability to access any system or databases hosted by AOC for the administration of justice and to hold hearings has been compromised or eliminated;
and

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 On November 8, 2024, Chief Justice Gonzalez of the Washington State Supreme Court adopted Order No. 25700-B-602, granting emergency authority upon all Washington courts to adopt, modify, and/or suspend court rules and orders,

1 and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the
2 AOC system outage; and

3 WHEREAS Justice Gonzalez' Emergency Order authorizes local courts to
4 extend or expand the time for trial, filing deadlines, and decision deadlines otherwise
5 defined by existing Criminal Rules. The Supreme Court's Emergency Order authorizes
6 courts to find good cause under CrRLJ 4.1 to extend arraignment dates for out of
7 custody cases and to extend the time for case filing, speedy hearing, and disposition
8 as defined under the IRLJ Infraction Rules when the unavailability of the State's Court
9 Database hinders the court's ability to meet said deadlines; and

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12 WHEREAS the date for restoration of the required services has not been
13 determined; and

14 WHEREAS this Emergency Administrative Order is being issued in response to the
15 impact of the AOC system outage on the court's ability to comply with the rules
16 referenced in this Order.

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18 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective Tuesday November 12, 2024:

19 In order to continue the essential work of the Pierce County District Court during
20 the AOC system disruption, Pierce County District Court adopts the following rules
21 and procedures immediately and, on an emergency basis;

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24 SUSPENDED COURT RULES

25 1) All court rules, policies, and procedures regarding filing, scheduling, docketing,
26 and transmitting information to AOC are extended by 14 days from the date of this
27 order or until the AOC Judicial Information Systems are restored, whichever is later.

1 2) All time requirements of CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, CrRLJ 4.7, IRLJ 2.1, IRLJ 2.6
2 (both civil infractions and vehicle related violations) and any other court rule, policy or
3 procedure governing 'time' is hereby extended for 14 days from the date of this order
4 or until the AOC Judicial Information Systems are restored, whichever is later.
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7 AFFECTED CASE TYPES

8 Because of the inability to access certain information systems, the Court is
9 unable, and therefore will not act on the following types of motions/petitions for at
10 least 14 days from the date of this order or until the AOC Judicial Information
11 Systems are restored, whichever is later:
12

- 13 1) Name Change Hearings
- 14 2) All pro-se Contested or Mitigation Infraction Hearings
- 15 3) Motion to Modify a Protection Order or Criminal No Contact Order
- 16 4) Granting of a Deferred Prosecution
- 17 5) Sentencing for any crimes under RCW 46.61.502 or RCW 45.61.504
- 18 6) Any other motion/petition that cannot statutorily be decided without a review of
19 an AOC system or database that cannot currently be accessed.
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22 DISCRETION TO CONTINUE A MOTION HEARING

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24 The Court relies on AOC Judicial Information Systems when ruling on many
25 matters, even when it is not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains
26 discretion to continue a motion hearing for which the judicial officer lacks vital
27 information based on the AOC outage. This includes but is not limited to:
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- 1) Arraignment hearings
- 2) Sentencing hearings
- 3) Sentence Compliance and/or other Review hearings
- 4) Infraction hearings
- 5) Deferred Prosecution petitions
- 6) Deferred Finding Infraction petitions/requests
- 7) Temporary Order Protection Order hearings
- 8) Full Order Protection Order hearings
- 9) Motions to Modify or Terminate Protection Order hearings

Pierce County District Court remains open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and live chat and phone services will remain available.

Dated this 12th day of November 2024.



Judge Kevin McCann
Presiding Judge