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**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THURSTON COUNTY**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY
THURSTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
TO THE COURT SYSTEM NETWORK
OUTAGE**

No. 24-2-00001-34

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 2024-01 CONCERNING
STATEWIDE COURT SYSTEM
NETWORK OUTAGE**

WHEREAS, Washington’s Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) identified unauthorized activity on the state courts network and suspended access to affected systems prior to November 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, judicial officers and court staff have not had access since November 3, 2024, and will continue to not have access to affected systems while the Administrative Office of the Courts works to restore service; and

WHEREAS, the affected systems include Odyssey, the Judicial Information System (JIS), Judicial Access Browser System (JABS), web-based resources, and other systems; and

WHEREAS, the system outage has impacted the Thurston County Superior Court’s work in numerous ways, including document filing, retrieving case documents, accessing and updating case calendars, monitoring deadlines, performing background checks; and

WHEREAS, AOC has not announced when the system outage will be fully resolved and access to data will be fully restored; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Washington issued Emergency Order No. 25700-B-720 on November 8, 2024, granting Washington trial courts authority to issue local court orders to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders to address this emergency; and

1 WHEREAS, in order to continue court operations, the Superior Court is exercising the
2 authority granted it by Supreme Court Emergency Order No. 25700-B-720, as set forth in this
3 Emergency Order.

4
5 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

6 1. While e-filing is unavailable during the system outage, parties must file hard
7 copies of documents with the Thurston County Clerk, either in person or by mail. Parties are
8 cautioned that judicial officers do not have access to documents filed after October 31, 2024,
9 unless they were also delivered as hard copy judge's copies to the Court. Once the Clerk is
10 able to e-file documents received during the outage, it will take time to file documents
11 received by the Clerk during the system outage.

12 2. If a judicial officer is unable to access filed documents electronically, they
13 may use their discretion to decline to act, even if the matter has been properly noted for
14 hearing or presented ex parte. Judicial officers may, in their discretion, strike a hearing,
15 continue a hearing, or otherwise defer consideration of the matter to a future date. In a judicial
16 officer's discretion, the judicial officer may act on the matter. Prior to acting, the judicial
17 officer should determine whether the documents available to the judicial officer are adequate
18 to allow the judicial officer to act. Judicial officers should invite input from parties on this
19 topic.

20 3. If a judicial officer lacks critical information to decide a matter because that
21 information is unavailable during or after the system outage, they may use their discretion to
22 decline to hear a motion or accept other evidence. This includes but is not limited to the
23 following:

- 24 • Judicial officers may enter proposed final parenting plans as temporary parenting
25 plans and decline to enter final parenting plans until JIS is available.
- 26 • Judicial officers may use their discretion to hear a motion or accept other evidence in
27 cases where access to unavailable systems is required by statute or court rule.
- 28 • Judicial officers may enter protection orders without a JIS consultation ordinarily
required by RCW 7.105.230 and instead accept sworn testimony.

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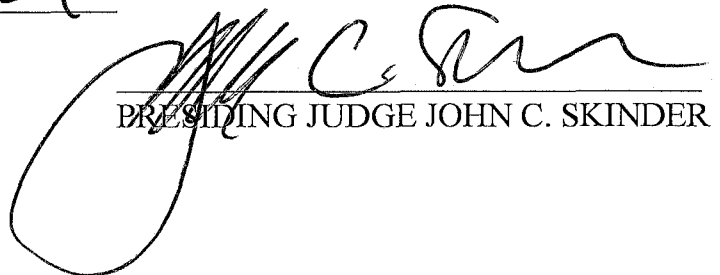
- Judicial officers may decline to enter final minor guardianship orders.
- During and after the system outage, in their discretion, judicial officers may make final decisions on parenting plans, guardianship orders, protection orders, and other similar requests without consulting JIS. Prior to making such decisions, judicial officers should consider whether they have available information similar to what would be available if JIS was operational.
- If the Court cannot confirm responses or notices of appearance, default orders should not be entered.

4. Judicial officers shall have discretion to waive deadlines that cannot be met due to the system outage. This includes, without limitation, deadlines related to filing, scheduling, and docketing.

5. The system outage shall be considered an “unavoidable or unforeseen circumstance” under CrR 3.3(e)(8).

6. This Emergency Order applies to all matters impacted by the system outage beginning on November 3, 2024. This order may be amended, extended, or terminated by the Superior Court at any time but shall expire automatically without further action when Supreme Court Emergency Order No. 25700-B-720 expires.

DATED: 11/18/2024



Handwritten signature of John C. Skinder in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDING JUDGE JOHN C. SKINDER