

OCT 30 2020

PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
KEVIN STOCK, County Clerk
BY KMA DEPUTY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF PIERCE

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE
BY PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN
WASHINGTON STATE

Emergency Order: 20-20
EMERGENCY ORDER 20 REGARDING
AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
SESSIONS AT ALTERNITIVE
LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, RCW 2.08.030 provides that Superior Courts:

...shall hold their sessions at the county seats of the several counties, respectively, and at such other places within the county as are designated by the judge or judges thereof with the approval of the chief justice of the supreme court of this state and of the governing body of the county;

and,

WHEREAS, In December 2006, the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court ordered:

That the Pierce County Superior Court may hold session at locations other than Tacoma, the county seat, when exigent circumstances necessitate that the court be held in a different location. (See Appendix hereto);

and,

WHEREAS, because "safe distancing" is necessary to guard against the spread of the Covid -19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, for the foreseeable future, at least well into the year 2021, there is not sufficient space within the Pierce County Superior Courthouse (County City Building) to conduct civil jury trials due to the requirement of "safe distancing;" and,

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PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
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BY MA DEPUTY

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF)
PIECE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT)
ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS)

ORDER
NO. 25700-B-467



The Pierce County Superior Court has requested the Chief Justice's approval to hold sessions at alternative locations outside the county seat in the event of an emergency or disaster. The superior courts are required to hold their sessions at the county seats and the judges may designate other places within the county with the approval of the Chief Justice and governing body of the county, pursuant to RCW 2.08.030.

Pierce County Superior Court has adopted a Continuity of Operations Plan which provides alternative locations in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Pierce County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2006-138, authorizing the Pierce County Superior Court to hold sessions in locations other than in Tacoma, the county seat.

The Chief Justice having considered the request and having determined that approval would aid in the prompt and orderly administration of justice in the event of a disaster or emergency;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That Pierce County Superior Court may hold sessions at locations other than Tacoma, the county seat, when exigent circumstances necessitate that court be held in a different location. In

503/150

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ORDER

the event of an emergency created by an act of nature, civil unrest, technological failure, or other hazardous condition or event, the Pierce County Superior Court Presiding Judge may designate alternative locations within the county where sessions of the Court shall be held, including but not limited to the following:


Bonney Lake
Buckley
Carbonado
Dupont
Eatonville
Edgewood
Fife
Fircrest
Gig Harbor
Lakewood
Milton
Orting
Pacific

Puyallup
Roy
Ruston
South Prairie
Steilacoom
Sumner
Wilkeson
Auburn
University Place, and
Unincorporated Pierce County

This order is signed pursuant to RCW 2.08.030 and CR 77(f).

DATED at Olympia, Washington this _____ day of December 2006.

For the Court



CHIEF JUSTICE

FILED
IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 30 2020

PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
KEVIN STOCK, County Clerk
BY KMA DEPUTY