

**IN THE COURTS OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS  
FOR THE PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON**

In re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY  
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS.

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-0014**

This General Order is being issued in response to the developing outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and in conjunction with the Court's March 16, 2020, Motion for Continuance, which continued all general civil and criminal appearances until May 1, 2020, tolled the Speedy Trial Rule until the next court date, and found that it was necessary to exercise an abundance of caution in mitigating the COVID-19 outbreak for a minimum of eight (8) weeks.

In response to the continued spread of COVID-19, President Trump has declared a national emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals including those 60 and older, to stay home and away from other people, and encouraging everyone to work from home whenever possible, to avoid discretionary travel, and to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people. The Puyallup Tribal Council has declared a public health emergency with similar guidelines as mentioned above. Additionally, Governor Inslee has also declared a state of emergency and has issued a stay-at-home order for the State of Washington.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the spread of the disease.

**ORDER**

Given the above-referenced guidance, and to protect the safety and health of all those entering and working in the Tribal Court, the Court ORDERS, effective immediately:

- 1.0** The Tribal Court will be closed to the public as stated below. This temporary closure began on March 16, 2020 and from this date, will continue based on guidance from the Puyallup Tribal Council until further notice.
- 2.0** Pending any further guidance from Tribal Council or any further orders from the Court, the Court will be open Monday-Friday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M., but most Court staff will be working

remotely. Some Court staff will be available by both telephone and email.

- 3.0** All filing fees and notary requirements are waived until further notice.
- 4.0** Filings accompanied with certificate of service will be accepted by both postal mail and by email at [TribalCourtFilings@PuyallupTribe-nsn.gov](mailto:TribalCourtFilings@PuyallupTribe-nsn.gov). All emergency filings, including but not necessarily limited to protection orders and pick-up orders for children, shall be processed expeditiously.
- 5.0** The Court expects delays in its processing and will make every effort to mitigate any delay caused by COVID-19 related procedures.
- 6.0** If your hearing was continued, then you will receive notice. If your hearing was not continued, the Court may proceed with electronic conferences and you will receive notice.
- 7.0** Any video recording, audio recording, photographing (including screenshots), or reproducing of hearings, virtual or otherwise, is strictly prohibited. Any person who records a hearing via video, audio, photograph, or any alternate medium, other than the official court reporter, may be held in contempt of Court.
- 8.0** With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to have Court staff present, the above mentioned public health recommendations, and the availability of counsel, the time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Tribe's Speedy Trial Rule (PTC 4.04.490, Rule 29.4).
- 9.0** The Court's weekly docket shall be posted to the Court's website on Fridays.
- 10.0** *See* General Order 2020-0006 regarding actual signatures.
- 11.0** *See* General Order 2020-0009 regarding specific 'presence' requirements.
- 12.0** *See* General Order 2020-0012 regarding specific jury trials.
- 13.0** If you have a scheduled hearing or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse but are denied entry, you should proceed as follows:
  - 13.1.** If you are represented by an attorney or a public defender, please contact your attorney or public defender;
  - 13.2.** If you are an attorney, public defender, or a pro se litigant and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the Court (see the Court's website at [www.Puyallup-Tribe.com/Court/](http://www.Puyallup-Tribe.com/Court/)).
  - 13.3.** For all other matters or questions, please contact the Court at (253) 680-5585.
- 14.0** The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than February 8, 2021.

SO ORDERED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.



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Darwin Long Fox  
Chief Judge of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians