



District Court of the State of Washington
for Snohomish County

JUDGES
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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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PRESIDING JUDGE
JENNIFER J. RANCOURT
COURT COMMISSIONER
RICK S. LEO
ADMINISTRATOR
KATHRYN F. KOEHLER

Administrative Order 22 – 05A, Amending Administrative Order 22-05

**Snohomish County District Court
Presence of Hearing Participants**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Presiding Judge of the Snohomish County District Court in GR 29, the following rules regarding the presence of hearing participants are effective June 1, 2022, and supersede the previous rules for presence under prior Administrative orders and the following Snohomish County District Court Local Rules:

- SCLCRLJ 1
- SCLIRLJ 3.5(b)
- SCLCrRLJ 3.4

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until September 1, 2022, when new local rules will become effective unless renewed, modified, or rescinded by the Snohomish County District Court Presiding Judge.

1. Civil Proceedings

- (a) Attorneys, parties, witnesses, and interpreters shall be physically present for all civil proceedings, unless an Order of the Court permits them to be remotely present.
- (b) Attorneys, parties, and interpreters may be remotely present for the following civil proceedings:
 - (1) Petition for a change of name;
 - (2) Ex-parte protection order hearing;
 - (3) Small Claim Court mediation hearings;
 - (4) Civil motions without testimony;
- (c) Interpreters shall be physically present if the hearing participant needing interpreter services is required to be physically present.
- (d) Requirements to be physically or remotely present may be modified at the discretion of the Judicial Officer assigned to the hearing.

2. Infraction Proceedings

- (a) Attorneys, parties, and witnesses may be remotely present for mitigation and contested infraction proceedings.
- (b) Interpreters shall be physically present if the hearing participant needing interpreter services is required to be physically present.
- (c) Requirements to be physically or remotely present may be modified at the discretion of the Judicial Officer assigned to the hearing.

3. Criminal Proceedings

- (a) Pursuant to CrRLJ 3.4(d), the court finds good cause to require the defendant to be present for the necessary hearings listed below. Unless required to be physically present under (b) of this Order, the defendant may be physically or remotely present.

(1) Compliance hearings pursuant to RCW 10.21.055 and RCW 9.41.800. Compliance with these statutes is a condition of release set by the Court and verification of timely compliance with these statutes has public safety implications. Non-compliance will result in review of release conditions. A defendant failing to comply with release conditions is subject to modification of release conditions and revocation of release on personal recognizance. Defendants have a due process right to notice and a hearing before any revision of release conditions. CrRLJ 3.2(j). The Court cannot properly conduct a hearing pursuant to CrRLJ 3.2(j) if the defendant is not present.

(2) Modification of Release Conditions Pursuant to CrRLJ 3.2(j). A defendant has a due process right to be advised of the allegations related to modification of release conditions and to have a hearing regarding those allegations. The Court cannot properly conduct a hearing pursuant to CrRLJ 3.2(j) if the defendant is not present.

(3) Trial Confirmation Hearings. The Court must manage the jury trial caseload and Trial Confirmation calendars. Leaving continuances and confirmation of cases to the assigned trial date would unreasonably congest the Trial Call calendar, preclude the Court from determining the need for jurors, impede the timely commencement of trials for that term, and prevent the Court from fulfilling the responsibility to protect the time for trial rights of the parties. Cases confirmed for the assigned trial date at Trial Confirmation require the parties to submit a Trial Confirmation Order. The order affirms that discovery has been completed, necessary pre-trial motions have been resolved, witness interviews have been completed, the defendant confirms availability for the trial term, and the matter is ready to proceed to trial. The Court cannot properly assess the readiness of the parties to proceed to trial if the defendant is not present.

(4) Probation Review Hearings. A defendant has a due process right to be advised of the allegations of non-compliance with probation conditions, to have a hearing regarding the allegation and to require the prosecutor to prove the allegations of non-compliance. The Court cannot properly conduct a probation review hearing if the defendant is not present.

- (b) The defendant, defense counsel, witnesses, and interpreters shall be physically present for the following hearings:

- (1) Arraignment, unless waived pursuant to CrRLJ 4.1(g);

- (2) Evidentiary Motions;

- (3) Guilty Plea, Entry of Deferred Prosecution, or Entry of Stipulated Order of

Continuance;

- (4) Sentencing;

- (5) Trials; and
- (6) Probation Review Fact Finding Hearings.
- (c) The defendant's attorney shall be physically present if the defendant is required to be physically present. For in-custody calendars, counsel shall appear at the jail.
- (d) The prosecutor shall be physically present for all appearances, with the exception of the in-custody calendar. The Prosecutor may be present remotely for the in-custody calendar.
- (e) Interpreters shall be physically present if the hearing participant needing interpreter services is required to be physically present. For in-custody calendars, interpreters shall appear at the jail with the defendant and defendant's attorney.
- (f) Requirements to be physically or remotely present may be modified at the discretion of the Judicial Officer assigned to the hearing.

4. Alternative Models/Programs

- (a) Mental Health Court/Therapeutic Courts - To be determined by the judicial officer presiding over the matter.
- (b) Relicensing Accountability Program - Participants may be present remotely unless otherwise instructed by the judicial officer.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2022



Judge Jennifer J. Rancourt
Presiding Judge
Snohomish County District Court