

1 IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR ADAMS COUNTY  
2 OTHELLO AND RITZVILLE, WASHINGTON  
3

4 IN RE: )  
5 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON ) Emergency Administrative Order No. 24-01  
6 STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE )  
7 COURTS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY )  
8 SERVICE OUTAGE )  
9 )  
10

11 WHEREAS on November 3, 2024, the Washington State Administrative Office of the  
12 Courts (AOC) notified courts across the State of Washington that a significant disruption had  
13 occurred to information systems that are hosted by the AOC due to "unauthorized activity on  
14 the Washington Courts network";

15  
16 WHEREAS Washington Courts, including Adams County District Court, are unable to  
17 access any systems or databases hosted by AOC including but not limited to the Judicial  
18 Information System (JIS) and the Abstract of Driving Record (ADR), and therefore have limited or  
19 no access to Washington State case information, Washington State criminal history, Washington  
20 State Department of Licensing (DOL) records, and Washington State Protection Order history;

21  
22 WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington requires that judicial officers consult certain  
23 databases prior to entering certain orders;

24  
25 WHEREAS, the disruption to AOC systems has had a significant impact on court  
26 operations and AOC has not identified a date on which access to all systems will resume;

27  
28 WHEREAS, because emergency procedures that have been implemented are time  
29 consuming and require additional resources, the Court must take steps to limit its operations  
30 and modify its processes to ensure that the most time sensitive matters can proceed without  
31 delay;

32 WHEREAS, the Adams County District Court has limited access to NCIC/III nationwide  
33 criminal histories through probation or the prosecuting attorney;

35 WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024 the Washington State Supreme Court promulgated  
36 Emergency Administrative Order No. 25700-B-720 allowing Washington Courts to expand or  
37 extend time rules on criminal cases regarding filing, speedy trial, sentencing, and out of custody  
38 arraignments, and speedy infraction filings, hearings, and disposition, if the unavailability of the  
39 AOC networks and databases hinders the local court's ability to meet said deadlines or process  
40 filings submitted by litigants, and allowing courts to use other databases to get information not  
41 available via IIS or DOL as required by statute;

42  
43 WHEREAS, the following expansion and extensions of rules are necessary because of the  
44 unavailability of the AOC networks and databases in order for Adams County District Court to  
45 meet deadlines, process filings submitted by litigants, and effectively decide cases;

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47 NOW THEREFORE, in order to continue the essential work of the Adams County District  
48 Court during the AOC system disruption, Adams County District Court adopts the following rules  
49 and procedures immediately and, on an emergency basis;

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51 SUSPENDED COURT RULES

- 52 1. All court rules, policies, and procedures regarding filing, scheduling, docketing, and  
53 transmitting information to AOC are extended by 14 days from the date of this order  
54 or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.  
55  
56 2. All time requirements of CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, CrRLJ 4.7, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.6 (both civil  
57 infractions and vehicle related violations) and any other court rule, policy or  
58 procedure governing 'time' is hereby extended for 14 days from the date of this  
59 order or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later.

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61 AFFECTED CASE TYPES

62 Because of the inability to access certain information systems, the Court is unable and  
63 therefore will not act on the following types of motions/petitions for at least 14 days from the  
64 date of this order or until the AOC judicial information systems are restored, whichever is later:

- 65 1. Name Change Hearings  
66 2. Motion to Modify a Protection Order or criminal No Contact Order  
67 3. Granting and/or reviewing compliance of a Deferred Finding on an Infraction

- 68 4. Granting of a Deferred Prosecution  
69 5. Any other motion/petition that cannot statutorily be decided without a review of an  
70 AOC system or database that cannot currently be accessed.  
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72 DISCRETION TO CONTINUE A MOTION HEARING


73 The Court relies on AOC informational systems when ruling on many matters, even when it is  
74 not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains discretion to continue a motion hearing for  
75 which the judicial officer lacks vital information based on the AOC outage. This includes but is  
76 not limited to:

- 77  
78 1. Arraignment hearings  
79 2. Sentencing hearings  
80 3. Sentence Compliance and/or other Review hearings  
81 4. Infraction hearings  
82 5. Deferred Prosecution petitions  
83 6. Deferred Finding Infraction petitions/requests  
84 7. Temporary Order Protection Order hearings  
85 8. Full Order Protection Order hearings  
86

87 Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that this Order will take effect immediately and per GR 7(f)  
88 shall expire after 90 days.

89 DATED November 12, 2024.  
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93 Hon. Carolyn J. Benzel, Judge  
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97 Hon. Andrea K. Russell, Judge  
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