

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF WHITMAN, STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY)
WHITMAN COUNTY DISTRICT TO THE) EMERGENCY ORDER 111324
WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE)
OFFICE OF THE COURTS' INFORMATION SYSTEM)
DISRUPTION)

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

WHEREAS Washington Courts, including Whitman County District Court, are unable to access any systems or databases hosted by AOC including but not limited to the Judicial Access Browser System (JABS) and the Judicial Information System (JIS), and therefore have limited or no access to Washington State case information, Washington State criminal history, Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) records, and Washington State Protection Order history;

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Whitman County District Court has limited access to NCIC/III nationwide criminal histories through third parties;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024 the Washington State Supreme Court promulgated Emergency Administrative Order No. 25700-B-720 granting "authority to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders as warranted to address the emergency conditions" if the unavailability of the AOC networks and databases hinders the local court's ability to meet said deadlines or process filings submitted by litigants,

and allowing courts to use other databases to get information not available via JIS or DOL as required by statute;

WHEREAS, the unavailability of the State Courts Network and Databases hinders Whitman County District Court's ability to meet deadlines or process filings submitted by litigants under the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Civil Rules, Criminal Rules, Infraction Rules, Administrative Rules, and Local Rules.

WHEREAS, the unavailability of the State Courts Network and Databases hinders Whitman County District Court's ability to comply with certain statutes and court rules requiring the review of the judicial information system, networks, and/or databases, hosted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, prior to or during court proceedings, and no other reliable source of information is reasonably and timely accessible to Whitman County District Court.

NOW THEREFORE, to continue the essential work of the LWhitman County District Court during the AOC system outage, Whitman County District Court adopts the following rules and procedures immediately and, on an emergency basis; it is hereby ordered:

SUSPENDED COURT RULES

1. All court rules, policies, and procedures regarding filing, scheduling, docketing, and transmitting information to AOC are suspended until the AOC judicial information systems are reliably restored.
2. All time requirements of CrRLJ 2.1, CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 4.1, CrRLJ 4.7, IRLJ 2.1, IRLJ 2.2, IRLJ 2.6 (both civil infractions and vehicle related violations), and any other court rule, policy or procedure governing 'time' is suspended until the AOC judicial information systems are reliably restored.
3. All court rules, policies, procedures regarding the taking and posting of payments are suspended until the AOC judicial information systems are reliably restored.

Further, the Court relies on AOC informational systems when ruling on many matters, even when it is not statutorily required to do so. The Court retains discretion to continue any hearing for which the judicial officer lacks vital information based on the AOC outage.

This Order shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect until further order of this court.

SIGNED this 13th day of November, 2024.



John E. H. Hart, PRESIDING JUDGE