

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF)
THE RESPONSE BY SNOHOMISH) NO. 2020-7006-31A
COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO THE)
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN)
SNOHOMISH COUNTY AND THE STATE OF) EMERGENCY ORDER #4
WASHINGTON) RE: COURT OPERATIONS
_____)

HEDI PERCY
COUNTY CLERK
SNOHOMISH CO, WASH

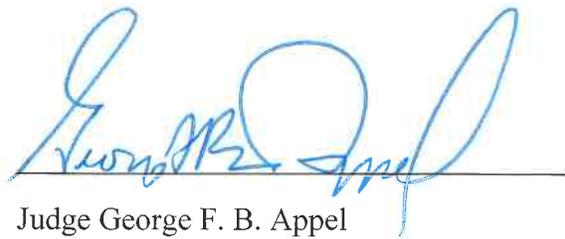
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This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State and in Snohomish County.

THIS IS NOTICE that the Snohomish County Sheriff has suspended enforcement of all residential eviction orders based solely on the nonpayment of rent until April 17, 2020. This date may be further extended by the governor. Evictions related to commercial properties or evictions resulting from criminal behavior, nuisance or other reasons will continue to be processed as long as it is safe for the Sheriff's office to do so. This means that civil eviction orders for nonpayment of rent will not be enforced throughout the County. The Sherriff's letter is attached.

DATED this 20th day of March, 2020



Judge George F. B. Appel
Acting Presiding Judge



SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY DIGNITY COMMITMENT PRIDE

Adam Fortney, Sheriff

March 19, 2020

Honorable Bruce Weiss, Presiding Judge
Snohomish County Superior Court
3000 Rockefeller
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Sheriff's Office Interim Eviction Process

Presiding Judge Weiss,

As you know since January 2020 Snohomish County and the State of Washington have been moving through a series of steps to deal with and respond to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak.

On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a state of emergency for all Counties in the state which allowed him to exercise emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220.

On March 18, 2020, Governor Inslee announced Proclamation 20-19 ("20-19"), regarding Residential Evictions initiated pursuant to RCW 59.12 and RCW 59.18. 20-19 orders that, effective immediately, a landlord may not initiate, and law enforcement may not enforce, a residential eviction because of non-payment of rent. The proclamation remains in effect until April 17, 2020, but may be extended by the Governor.

It is the intent of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to abide by 20-19. Effective today we will not proceed with any residential evictions filed solely on the basis of non-payment of rent.

The Sheriff's Office currently averages about 100 evictions per month. Some of these evictions are not covered by 20-19, including commercial properties or evictions resulting from criminal behavior, nuisance, or other reasons. The Sheriff's Office intends to continue processing these types of evictions, as long as it is safe to do so.

As always, safety of the public and staff is our primary concern. If a deputy has concerns regarding the safety of a planned eviction he/she will contact a supervisor to determine if it is safe to proceed. [LD1][BJ2] If the Sheriff's Office is unable to execute an eviction because of safety concerns, we will advise the Court.

We will continue to evaluate and update this procedure as time goes on and communicate any changes that may take place in the future.

ADAM FORTNEY, SHERIFF

Jeff Brand #1196
Jeff Brand
Undersheriff