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COVID-19 alert: In March 2020, the Washington Supreme Court issued an “Order Regarding Court Operations During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (published on the Washington Courts website at <https://www.courts.wa.gov>). For civil cases statewide, the order provides as follows:

1. All civil jury trials shall be suspended until after April 24, 2020. Trials already in session where a jury has been sworn and social distancing and other public health measures are strictly observed may proceed or, at the discretion of the trial court or agreement of the parties, be continued to a later date.

2. All non-emergency civil matters shall be continued until after April 24, 2020, except those motions, actions on agreed orders, conferences or other proceedings that can appropriately be conducted by telephone, video or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

3. All emergency matters, including civil protection and restraining order matters, that must be heard before April 24, 2020, must be heard by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance, unless impossible. Where court matters must be heard in person, social distancing and other public health measures must be strictly observed. Telephonic, video or other hearings required to be public must be recorded, with the recording preserved for the record.

The order reserves the possibility of the Supreme Court entering further orders extending time frames as required by the continuing public health emergency. The order itself and other applicable emergency orders “may be deemed part of the record in affected cases for purposes of appeal without the need to file the orders in each case.”

The order further provides that nothing in the order limits the authority of courts to adopt more restrictive measures to protect health and safety, as circumstances warrant, including by extending as necessary the time frames in the Supreme Court order. Because many superior courts and courts of limited jurisdiction have enacted emergency orders directing court closures, relocations or modifications in operations, the Washington Courts website has established a dedicated court closure web page (<http://www.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=home.courtClosures>) to track these statewide orders. In most instances, the web page provides

links to the specific local emergency orders.

The topic of adjustment of court procedures in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency is a developing area of civil procedure law. See, e.g., *In re RFC & ResCap Liquidating Tr. Action*, 444 F. Supp. 3d 967 (D. Minn. 2020) (COVID-19 outbreak constituted good cause and compelling circumstances so as to warrant videoconference testimony by final two defense witnesses).

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Washington Supreme Court has adopted rule changes to facilitate remote proceedings.

- Effective February 1, 2021, CR 30 was amended to allow court reporters and other officers to place a deposition witness under oath remotely.
- Effective December 29, 2020, GR 11.3 was amended to authorize remote use of appointed interpreters for evidentiary hearings.

These pocket parts bring up to date the Civil Procedure hardbound volumes in Washington Practice, Volumes 14, 14A, and 15. The rule amendments and cases in these pocket parts are current through approximately May 2021 (West's Washington Reporter vol. 21). Statutes are current through the 2020 regular legislative session (West's Washington Legislative Service vol. 2). Rules of court reflect all amendments received through May 21, 2021.

Developments of particular significance in these new pocket parts include the following:

- More than 175 new substantive entries covering Washington cases, rules, statutes, and more!
- New United States Supreme Court case on personal jurisdiction and the limits of due process. (§ 4:25).
- New Supreme Court decision settling the ongoing dispute about whether the superior court's subject matter jurisdiction can be restricted by statute. (§ 3:2).
- Amendment to CR 3 governing service of summons and complaint in debt collection actions. (§ 7.4).
- New Court of Appeals case law on whether and when a clerk's rejection of a filing will divest superior court of jurisdiction. (§ § 7:7, 22:10 & 50:2).
- New case law and reorganized commentary on the scope of what constitutes an appearance for purposes of establishing right to notice of default. (§ 9:2).
- New Supreme Court decision on implied authority to appear on behalf of a client with diminished capacity. (§ 9:4).

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- New Court of Appeals decision on when counsel's inexcusable neglect suffices to set aside a default order under CR 55(c)(1). (§ 9:23).
- New case law and reorganized commentary on actions commenced pseudonymously. (§ 12:10).
- New Court of Appeals case law on availability of summary judgment when state of mind is at issue (§ 25:17).
- New Court of Appeals decision on application of the cumulative error doctrine to civil cases. (§ § 30:27, 30:34 & 30:42).
- New Court of Appeals case law on summary contempt procedures. (§ 43:18).
- Amendments to court rules renaming the Mandatory Arbitration Rules (MAR) the Superior Court Civil Arbitration Rules (SCCAR). (§ 47:1).
- New legislation providing judicial remedies for abusive litigation against domestic violence survivors. (§ 51:13).

Over the years, these volumes of Washington Practice have incorporated numerous suggestions from readers, which I and my predecessor authors have always appreciated. I encourage lawyers and judges to contact me with comments and corrections.

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May 31, 2021