

WHITMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to the orders from Governor Inslee and the Washington State Supreme Court, the Whitman County District Court will remain open but with limited operations. Both the Pullman and Colfax District Court Clerk's Offices will be open to the public but contact by telephone or email is preferred.

Courtroom Appearance: There is limited seating in the courtroom. Maximum occupancy is 12. To maintain a minimum of 6 feet between participants, the court is reducing the number of hearings per hour to 10 cases/people. Although our courts remain open to the public, please remain mindful of the capacity constraints. As an optional alternative to attending in-person, family and friends may view the hearing on the court's YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi7BJN3F3wVP3q2Aaa7_QfA . This link is also available on the Whitman County District Court webpage and through the Washington State Courts website. This action is taken for the safety of our residents, court users and staff to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation.

To further limit person-to-person contact, our court is making efforts to limit or eliminate the passing of paperwork between court staff and court users. Enclosed please find an Advice of Rights form. Please read, complete and return this form via email to:

district.court@whitmancounty.net . Any questions regarding the Advice of Rights form should be asked of the judge or a defense attorney at your first appearance. Also enclosed is an Indigent Screening Application. If you wish to apply for court-appointed counsel, please complete this form and email it to the court prior to your court appearance. If you are unable to email the forms to the court prior to appearing in court, please bring

the completed forms with you. There will be a basket in the courtroom for completed forms.

If you are charged with No Valid Driver's License without Identification or with Driving While License Suspended and you had a Washington driver's license or ID card, you may visit the Washington State Department of Licensing's License Express website to determine what steps are required to obtain a driver's license. The Washington State Department of Licensing web address is www.dol.wa.gov and the direct link to the License Express application is <https://www.dol.wa.gov/licenseexpress.html>.

When entering the court facility the following safety precautions are in place:

- **Masks are Required** – Disposable Masks are available at the clerk's office and in the courtrooms.
- There is a glass barrier at each clerk's counter and the court staff will wear cloth masks in the building hallways and in the courtrooms.
- Hand-sanitizing dispensers are located in the hallways and in the courtrooms.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned with disinfectant. Spray disinfectant and towels for court users to sanitize counsel tables are available in each courtroom.

If you are considered high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and/or are concerned about appearing in person, please contact the court to arrange an appearance via video or telephone. Your hearing may be reset to a later time on the date you are currently scheduled or may be rescheduled to a future date.

If you are ill or fevered, stay home and contact the court to be rescheduled.

Please email or phone the court if you have any questions or concerns.