

5/21/20

West Court soft – opening:

The courthouse will be “soft-opening” next week – this does not mean the courthouse doors are open. They expect that the clerk’s office will not be re-opened until the next week.

Access – the door that we are accustomed to using will be closed – it is too close to the clerk’s office windows. The door closer to the jury assembly room will be the new entrance.

You must wear a mask at the courthouse. You will see that there are markings around the courthouse to ensure social distancing. Courthouse cleaning will be increased. The mask rule will apply to all lawyers, OSCD, etc... If you do not have a mask, there has been a donation of some masks (1000).

Jury trials and preliminary hearings will be going forward. Limited in custody matters will be sent from Central.

The jury room and overflow will be addressed.

Jury summons have been sent out.

If you have a jury trial, you will be contacted for a “mandatory settlement” conference that will not be in person.

OUT OF CUSTODY MISDEMEANOR MATTERS:

Motions – Motions can proceed via livestream. If you want the motion to be in person, let the Court know by sending in the COVID19 misdemeanor action form. On that form, you will be required to provide a time estimate, the number of people that will need to be in the courtroom for the motion to proceed (you, DDA, witnesses, defendant)

Of there are motions pending, you can get the motion set – you can do by phone, livestreaming or live. The court wants to get motions OUT.

1203.4 AND SEALING MOTIONS – the court intends to handle through chambers work. If you do not agree with the Court’s ruling, you can request a hearing.

If you have cases that can be settled, Comm. Van Camp is working in this capacity.

Guilty pleas – W12 is currently handling. They can be accomplished through livestreaming.

If you have a client that has completed DEJ – get ahold of the DA’s office and send in a misdemeanor action form.

FELONY MATTERS – CONTINUE TO USE FORMS WE HAVE BEEN USING.

Prelims will be sent out (after livestreaming will be in 16 courtrooms – not yet completed)

W1 will be used for arraignments. If you have a West Court felony – use the same procedures that we have been using. (A new form may come out.) ***All appearances will be remote until further notice. Call the DA's office and you can coordinate a date. W1 and W2 will not be "open" next week.***

Use felony action form for pre-prelim matters and motions (in and out of custody). Use this to have a settlement conference and to have motion set. Contact the DA and get a date. These "hearings" will be under 977b and will be by livestreaming or the phone. These hearing will be decentralized – i.e., sent to WJC.

The court is working on getting the clerk's office to get the ability to file motions back on track.

MISDEMEANOR ARRAIGNMENTS:

There are a lot of pending arraignments and cases that have not yet been filed by the DA's office. The Court is working on getting information to the public on what to do and how to apply for PD.

If you have an arraignment date on a case. Use the misdemeanor action form to set new date.

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Court staff is now coming back to the courthouse and they are working on backed up dates. Backlog in the DA's portal – WJC (as of today) is up to date.

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MULTIPLE CASES AT WJC: IF YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF MISDEMEANOR CASES SET THAT ARE RIPE FOR SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION, YOU CAN GET A JUDGE TO DISCUSS ALL OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME. GET AHOLD OF A DA TO SET A DATE AND TIME TO HAVE A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.

The clerk's office is sending out notices on some court dates – minute orders will be sent. If you do not have a court date on a case, check VISION. West clerk's office says they are up to date.

**THIS IS ALL A WORK IN PROGRESS. THERE WILL LIKELY BE CHANGES AND TWEAKS THAT NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.
BE PATIENT !**

(Thank you to Kate Corrigan of Corrigan Welbourn Stokke, APLC for this information
<https://www.cwsdefense.com/>)