



Okanogan County Prosecuting Attorney
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Victim-Witness Assistance Program
Stacie Nicholson, Program Advocate
Odilia Esolino, Program Advocate

Criminal Division

David Stevens, Chief Criminal Deputy
Melanie R. Bailey, Criminal Deputy
Felecia Chandler, Juvenile Deputy
Jason D'Avignon, District Court Deputy

Civil Division

David Gecas, Chief Civil Deputy
Esther M. Milner, Child Support Deputy

Office Administrator

Christa (Teagan) Levine

The Okanogan County Prosecutor's Office, in consultation with other County elected officials, will be closed to walk-in public visits starting March 18, 2020 until further notice. The office remains in operation and continues to work diligently to ensure public safety. This action is being taken as a way to establish precautions in an attempt to delay the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Consistent with the State of Emergency issued by Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee, I believe that this action is necessary in order to help slow the spread of the Coronavirus. The Okanogan County Prosecutor's Office's duty and mission is to protect Okanogan County residents and staff. Putting the public in continued close contact with each other, as a result of the design of our older buildings, goes contrary to all guidance being given by national, state, and local health authorities.

My staff and I will continue to monitor this constantly changing situation and will adjust policies and responses to current conditions as they are warranted.

Staying home when sick, practicing appropriate social distancing, and diligent hand-washing remain the most effective way to stop the spread of this virus.

My office is committed to the health and safety of our residents. Closing our offices to the public is not an easy decision for an elected official to make when my job is to serve the residents of Okanogan County. At the same time, I believe by closing our Office to the public, we are acting in accordance with the measures put forth by medical professionals, the Governor, and the Department of Health.

Okanogan County has literally been through fires and floods; we will certainly manage our way through this pandemic! I very much appreciate and encourage our residents to stay strong and continue following the recommendations of our Health Department, the CDC, and Emergency Management. Our offices are still operational and doing business, you may contact us by, phone, email, fax, and mail correspondence to:

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OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'

RESOLUTION 40 - 2020

Setting office hours for county offices in response to the public health emergency declared by the Washington State Governor to address the COVID-19 outbreak

WHEREAS, beginning on January 30, 2020 the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020 Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States and on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency and is now a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Governor declared a state of emergency on February 29, 2020 as a result the Governor ordered state-wide shut downs including schools and businesses throughout the state due to COVID-19 outbreak which is spread by person to person contact; and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County received requests from county elected officials to close county offices to the public during this crisis in order to reduce the spread of the virus and protect the health and safety of employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, Okanogan County Commissioners wish to close or reduce offices hours to foot traffic, but remain staffed during business hours to assist customers who call for assistance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective immediately, Okanogan County offices be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, BUT OPEN FOR BUSINESS. Offices are to remain open and staffed for telephone call-in assistance from customers, but that county offices be locked to public foot traffic during the statewide emergency shut-down.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that some county offices may remain open for a short-designated amount of time during the work week to the public in order to comply with certain mandates of that particular office and hereby delegates the authority to the department heads to designate the particular time their office will be open.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if offices remain open for certain hours to foot traffic, then each office must place appropriate signage on doors and web-pages which make clear that we are still in operation but doing our part to limit community transmission of this disease

DATED at Okanogan, Washington this 17 day of March, 2020.



ATTEST:

[Handwritten signature of Laleña Johns]

Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**

[Handwritten signature of Jim DeTro]

Jim DeTro, Chairman

[Handwritten signature of Chris Branch]

Chris Branch, Member

[Handwritten signature of Andy Hoyer]

Andy Hoyer, Member