

KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE THE EMERGENCY CLOSURE
OF THE KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT
COURT OF THE
STATE OF WASHINGTON

EAO 2025-02
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
CLOSING THE COURT

GENERAL RULE 21(a) discusses emergency court closure in general. The rule reads –

A court may be closed if weather, technological failure or other hazardous or emergency conditions or events are or become such that the safety and welfare of the employees are threatened or the court is unable to operate or demands immediate action to protect the court, its employees or property. Closure may be ordered by the chief justice, the presiding chief judge, presiding judge or other judge so designated by the affected court in his or her discretion during the pendency of such conditions or events.

GENERAL RULE 21(b) discusses closure order and notification requirements. The rule reads –

Whenever a court is closed in accordance with section (a), the chief justice, presiding chief judge, presiding judge or other judge directing the closure of the court shall enter an administrative order closing the court which shall be filed with the clerk of the affected court.

It shall also be the responsibility of the chief justice, the presiding chief judge, the presiding judge or other judge so designated by the affected court to notify the Office of the Administrator for the Courts of any decision to close a court. All oral notifications to the Office of the Administrator for the Courts shall be followed as soon as practicable with a written statement outlining the condition or event necessitating such action and the length of such closure.

THIS COURT FINDS that on February 5, 2025, weather, technological failure or other hazardous or emergency conditions or events are or became such that the safety welfare of the litigants, attorneys, jurors, and employees are threatened, or the court is unable to operate or demands immediate action to protect the court, its employees or property, to wit - weather, including snow, ice and treacherous driving conditions, that threatens the safety and welfare of litigants, attorneys, jurors, and Court employees;

ACCORDINGLY, an emergency exists necessitating the closure and/or modification of the operating hours of the Kitsap County Courthouse of the State of Washington, now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to General Rule 21(a), that the Kitsap County District Court of the State of Washington shall close on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., to ensure safe travel conditions to the Courthouse.

DATED this 7th day of February 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin P. Kelly', is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

JUDGE KEVIN P. KELLY

PRESIDING JUDGE

KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT