

**ENTERED**

*B. Lindley*  
Britany Lindley

**2021 Sep 13 am 10:37  
PUYALLUP TRIBAL COURT**

**IN THE COURTS OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS  
FOR THE PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON**

In re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY  
COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS.

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 2021-0006**

This General Order is being issued in response to the developing outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) because the Court finds that it is necessary to exercise an abundance of caution in mitigating the COVID-19 outbreak.

In response to the continued spread of COVID-19, Puyallup Tribal Council declared a public health emergency and issued guidelines restricting access to Tribal buildings, directing personnel to work remotely to the extent possible, and encouraging the practice of recommended preemptive measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, Governor Inslee also declared a state of emergency, former President Trump declared a national emergency, and President Biden implemented a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the spread of the disease.


**ORDER**

Given the above-referenced guidance, and to protect the safety and health of all those entering and working in the Tribal Court, the Court ORDERS, effective immediately:

- 1.0** The Tribal Court will be closed to the public as stated below. This temporary closure began on March 16, 2020 and from this date, will continue based on guidance from the Puyallup Tribal Council until further notice.
- 2.0** Visitors may contact the Court to schedule an appointment to enter the courthouse for paperwork purposes. Visitors must follow all applicable Tribal policies in effect, which may include wearing masks and abiding by social distancing guidelines. The Court will make every effort to provide the public with the latest Tribal policies.
- 3.0** Hearings shall continue to be held virtually unless otherwise ordered by the presiding Judge as approved by Chief Judge Long Fox.

- 4.0** Pending any further guidance from Tribal Council or any further orders from the Court, the Court will be open Monday-Friday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M., but some Court staff will be working remotely. Most Court staff will be available by both telephone and email.
- 5.0** All filing fees and notary requirements are waived until further notice.
- 6.0** Filings accompanied with certificate of service will be accepted by both postal mail and by email at [TribalCourtFilings@PuyallupTribe-nsn.gov](mailto:TribalCourtFilings@PuyallupTribe-nsn.gov). All emergency filings, including but not necessarily limited to protection orders and pick-up orders for children, shall be processed expeditiously.
- 7.0** The Court expects delays in its processing and will make every effort to mitigate any delay caused by COVID-19 related procedures.
- 8.0** Any video recording, audio recording, photographing (including screenshots), or reproducing of hearings, virtual or otherwise, is strictly prohibited. Any person who records a hearing via video, audio, photograph, or any alternate medium, other than the official court reporter, may be held in contempt of Court.
- 9.0** With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to have Court staff present, the above mentioned public health recommendations, and the availability of counsel, the time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Tribe's Speedy Trial Rule (PTC 4.04.490, Rule 29.4).
- 10.0** The Court's weekly docket shall be posted to the Court's website on Fridays.
- 11.0** *See* General Order 2020-0006 regarding actual signatures.
- 12.0** *See* General Order 2020-0009 regarding specific 'presence' requirements.
- 13.0** *See* General Order 2020-0012 regarding jury trials.
- 14.0** If you have a scheduled hearing or are otherwise required to appear at the courthouse but are denied entry, you should proceed as follows:
- 14.1.** If you are represented by an attorney or a public defender, please contact your attorney or public defender;
- 14.2.** If you are an attorney, public defender, or a pro se litigant and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the Court (see the Court's website at [www.Puyallup-Tribe.com/Court/](http://www.Puyallup-Tribe.com/Court/)).
- 14.3.** For all other matters or questions, please contact the Court at (253) 680-5585.
- 15.0** The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than October 11, 2021.

SO ORDERED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darwin Long Fox  
Chief Judge of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians