

Superior Court

Notice to the Bar & Public

March 29, 2010

ATTENTION Law Office Personnel: Please ensure that ALL staff, attorneys and non-attorneys are aware of the contents of this notice.

In response to questions and suggestions from the Bar, the March 11th bar notice setting out revised Civil Trial Setting Procedures (below) are modified:

Changes to Civil Trial Setting Procedures: Effective Monday, April 5, 2010 the Court will modify its Civil Friday Trial Setting Calendar procedures. The Court will adopt a practice used in many other Washington counties wherein a party Notes a matter for Trial Setting, according to the notice requirements set forth in WCCR 77.2, listing unavailable dates. In response, Counsel for the opposing side provides similar unavailable dates. The trial date is then set administratively with a Court order, without appearances by counsel, copies of which will be sent to parties.

Counsel and parties will continue to note the case for trial setting on the Court's Friday 1:00 PM Trial Setting Calendar and confirm the setting, using the new Note for Trial Setting form, submitted with a Notice of Conflicts and await the Court's issuance of the Order Setting Trial Date soon after the scheduled Trial Setting Calendar.

The Court's policy remains that a trial setting in a particular department is tentative and does not assure trial before that department.

The Note for Trial Setting, any Note for Motion Docket, Notice of Conflicts, Notice of Settlement, waiver of jury, changes in the number of days expected for trial and any related orders of dismissal should be filed with the County Clerk and a copy provided for and marked for the assigned Judge's Judicial Assistant.

In accordance with CR 38, jury demands and payment of jury fees are due at or prior to the time of trial setting or a jury trial will be deemed waived.

March 29, 2010, REVISIONS to Above

- The **Notice of Conflicts** form is modified to include settlement conference conflict dates. The Court will post booked and available trial and law settlement conference dates on its web site. Counsel and parties should report conflicts with "available" dates from the web calendar. Conference instructions will be attached to the trial setting order in family law cases, and will not be the subject of a separate letter.
- We are too poorly staffed to be able to accommodate phone setting of trial dates or scheduling of settlement conferences.

These forms are revised to implement these changes:

- **Notice of Conflicts** (REVISED to include trial and settlement conference conflicts)
- **Order Setting Trial Date** (REVISED to refer to settlement conference instructions as an attachment.)

Word and **PDF** versions of the four new forms are posted on the court web site at www.whatcomcounty.us/superior

Those without Internet access may obtain copies of the forms at the Clerk's office.