

2020-03-18-B

**TRIBAL COURT LIMITED OPERATIONS PLAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE STANDING  
ORDER SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER RE: Youth in Need of Care (YINC) dependency cases  
during closure**

**MARCH 18, 2020**

Pursuant to the Emergency Closure of the Tulalip Tribal Court, these procedures will govern the continued court review of YINC dependency cases during the closure.

Court operations are substantially curtailed to help keep the public and our employees' safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have entered an unprecedented time and are working hard to understand how best to go forward with court with the growing outbreak of COVID-19 for the Tulalip Tribes and the Tribal Court. We are closely monitoring recommendations and practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect the public's health. To minimize the health impacts of COVID-19 to our community, we are implementing a variety of emergency strategies to increase social distancing and slow the spread of this disease. We understand these actions will have a tremendous impact on all members of our community.

**1. YOUTH IN NEED OF CARE (YINC) DEPENDENCIES**

All YINC hearings, under the TRIBAL COURT LIMITED OPERATIONS PLAN AND UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE STANDING ORDER, will be continued past March 31, 2020 and no earlier than 30 days and may be continued further if the closure is extended by the Tulalip Board of Directors. The Court will be closed to all YINC matters, with the exception of protective custody orders, the required 72 hour preliminary hearings, and other emergency motions brought before the Court by either beda?chel, beda?chel attorneys, TOCLA attorney's, or parents.

The Tribal Court has created processes for holding remote emergency hearings, and for signing electronically and filing remotely.

Any hearings that will be continued 30 days or more will be prioritized by type of hearing as follows:

- a. Preliminary Inquiry
- b. Motions - emergent
- c. Adjudicatory hearings
- d. Permanent Plan hearings
- e. Status Review hearings
- f. Permanent Plan Review hearings
- g. Extended Foster Care Review (unless they are aging out)
- h. Motions – non-emergent

All social workers and attorneys may file their reports, and any other filings by email, fax or mail until further notice. If e-filing please use the following email: [courtclerkstaff@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:courtclerkstaff@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov). The filer should use the subject line of "For E-Filing". There are no judges copies required at this time. If you are filing for review use the subject line of "For Judges Review".



If there is a need for an emergency pick up of a youth, beda?chelh will follow their usual policies and procedures, and contact Judge Janine B. Van Dusen, and Court Administrator Stephanie Ancheta. The clerk's office will submit to the Judge the Petition and Declaration of the Social Worker for review. If the protective order is signed, hearing will be set up within 72 hours excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays. This hearing will be held remotely.

If a person believes there is a concern about the health, safety and welfare of a minor child, they should contact the Region 3 Washington State Child Protection Services hotline at 1-866-829-2153. While the Tribal Court will not be accepting non-emergency filings during this closure period, persons may continue to seek service from TOCLA pursuant to Section 2 below. If a person believes that their filing is emergent that will be referred to the Court Administrator and the Judges for a determination of whether the Court will accept the filing and hold a telephonic hearing.

## 2. TOCLA SERVICES FOR PARENTS

Existing clients should continue to stay in contact with their attorneys directly at the number provided to them. Existing clients should continue to follow the advice of their attorneys. Potential new clients will be screened for eligibility and schedule a callback from the TOCLA attorney. Applications will be made available by their beda?chelh social worker and also at the Security desk at the court. Applications can be scanned and emailed to Amy Lettig at [alettig@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:alettig@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov). In the alternative, clients may take a picture of their application and text it to Ms. Lettig at 360-553-5598.

Therefore, the court hereby affirms and declares:

**HEALTH EMERGENCY-** Recognizing the state of emergency declared by the Tulalip Tribes due to the COVID-19 virus, this supplement to the emergency standing order shall be in effect for Tulalip Tribal Court immediately, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Tulalip Tribal Court Chief Judge or Deputy Chief Judge. This order shall apply to all persons who are transacting business with Tulalip Tribal Court and shall include but is not limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, and the general public.

So issued this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Janine B. Van Dusen, Associate Judge

Michelle Demmert, Chief Judge  
Remy Leonard, Deputy Chief Judge  
Leona Colegrove, Associate Judge  
Josh Heath, Associate Judge  
Ron Whitener, Associate Judge  
Alicia Horne, Court Director