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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR ISLAND COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY)
ISLAND COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO)
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY) No. 2023-1
IN WASHINGTON STATE)
) COURT’S SUNSET ORDER
) FOR EVICTION RESOLUTION
) PILOT PROGRAM (ERPP):
) TERMINATION AS OF **05/10/2023**

Findings

1. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has been a public health and economic emergency that caused great health, social, and economic harm to the people of the state of Washington. Codified at Chapter 59.18.660, legislation was enacted by the state of Washington during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide for court-based eviction resolution pilot programs to facilitate the resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants based in whole or in part on nonpayment of rent. On August 20, 2021, the Court entered its Standing Order for Eviction Resolution Pilot Program, Island County Superior Court 2021-1 (“Standing Order ERPP”), opting into participation in the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program. The Standing Order ERPP was adopted to ensure that citizens of Island County had access to all of the federal and state assistance that was available to prevent homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic by requiring unlawful detainer cases based on nonpayment of rent to participate in the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program.

*SUNSET ORDER FOR ERPP:
MAY 10, 2023*

1 2. Although cases of COVID-19 continue to occur, the associated public health and
2 economic emergency is over. Effective October 31, 2022, the last of the eighty-five gubernatorial
3 emergency COVID-19 proclamations was rescinded.
4

5 3. The national emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic was formally ended
6 on April 11, 2023. The national public health emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic is
7 currently set to end on May 11, 2023.
8

9 4. Chapter 59.18.660 expires effective July 1, 2023. The Standing Order ERPP having
10 achieved its objectives, it should also expire. In order to avoid an abrupt termination of dispute
11 resolution services for cases that are, “in process”, the Standing Order ERPP should expire
12 effective May 10, 2023. Unlawful detainer cases based on nonpayment of rent that are started on
13 or before May 10, 2023, should participate in the dispute resolution process; unlawful detainer
14 cases based on nonpayment of rent that are started after May 10, 2023, need not participate in the
15 dispute resolution process.
16
17

18 5. The Standing Order for RTC Counsel under E2SSB 5160, Island County Superior
19 Court No. 2021-2 (“Standing Order RTC Counsel”) was adopted to comply with legislation
20 codified at Chapter 59.18.640 RCW. Ch. 59.18.640 RCW does not contain an expiration date.
21
22 Appointments of counsel under the Standing Order RTC Counsel should continue in accordance
23 with its terms.
24

25 Order

26 The Standing Order for Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (“ERPP”), Island County
27 Superior Court No. 2021-1, will **expire effective May 10, 2023**, without further order of the Court.
28
29 Unlawful detainer cases based on nonpayment of rent that are filed in the Island County Superior
30

SUNSET ORDER FOR ERPP:
MAY 10, 2023

1 Court on or before May 10, 2023, shall continue to comply with the Standing Order ERPP. The
2 Standing Order for RTC Counsel under E2SSB 5160 will remain in effect until further order of
3 the Court.
4

5 DATED this 31 day of May, 2023.
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8

9 Christon C. Skinner
10 Island County Superior Court, Dep't. # 1

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12

13 Carolyn Cliff
14 Island County Superior Court, Dep't. # 2
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