



**Washington Association of
Prosecuting Attorneys**
www.waprosecutors.org
(360) 753-2175



**Washington Association of
Sheriffs and Police Chiefs**
www.waspc.org
(360) 486-2380

Friday, May 8, 2020

Honorable Senator Andy Billig
Senate Majority Leader
307 Legislative Building
PO Box 40403
Olympia, WA 98504

Honorable Mark Schoesler
Senate Republican Leader
314 Legislative Building
PO Box 40409
Olympia, WA 98504

Honorable Representative Laurie Jinkins
Speaker of the House
339C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Honorable Representative JT Wilcox
House Republican Leader
335C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: Extension of Proclamation 20-45

Legislative Leaders,

On behalf of the membership of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the majority of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), we respectfully request that you extend Proclamation 20-45, consistent with your authority pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(4).

Prosecutors and law enforcement support extending Proclamation 20-45 because it provides protections to victims of crime and to law enforcement during the COVID-19 pandemic. This proclamation allows flexibility for court processes essential to victims during COVID-19. This proclamation is essential during the COVID-19 concerns.

We recognize there are concerns about due process related to waiving some of the timeframes. Some of our members share the concerns that some legislators have expressed related to gun rights and due process. These are issues that may need additional discussions, but, for the victims of crime, this proclamation should be extended. We would be happy to be involved in future discussions if it would be of any help.

Not only does this proclamation help victims of crime, it also serves as a protection for the safety of our law enforcement by allowing electronic service of orders. Without the extension of Proclamation 20-45, law enforcement agencies are left with two unreasonable options, given the current public health crisis:

- Resume performing in-person service of protection orders and put law enforcement officers, and the respondents, at unnecessary risk; or
- Refuse to serve protection orders, subjecting the law enforcement agency to additional liability, and denying the petitioner the protection offered them by the law.

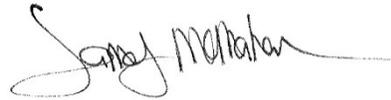
Finally, Chief Justice Stephens' Second Revised and Extending Order Regarding Court Operations (No. 25700-B-618) suspended requirements for personal service of protection orders, except as to orders directing the surrender of weapons or removal of the respondent from a shared residence. If this proclamation is not extended, all orders will need to be personally served, despite that Supreme Court order.

We respectfully request that you extend Proclamation 20-45 prior to its expiration.

Sincerely,



Russell Brown
Executive Director
WAPA



James McMahan
Policy Director
WASPC

CC: Senator Jamie Pedersen, Chair, Senate Law & Justice Committee
Senator Mike Padden, Ranking Member, Senate Law & Justice Committee
Representative Christine Kilduff, Chair, House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee
Representative Morgan Irwin, Ranking Member, House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee
Representative Roger Goodman, Chair, House Public Safety Committee
Representative Brad Klippert, Ranking Member, House Public Safety Committee