





STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41101 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1101

December 28, 2020

TO: All Classification Staff
All Religious Coordinators

FROM:  
Geneva Cotton and Scott Russell,
Prisons/Health Services Unified Command Incident Commanders

SUBJECT: Virtual Marriages

In an effort to support our incarcerated population's right to marry during the pandemic, the Department of Corrections has created a new virtual ceremony process. Effective immediately, marriages already scheduled or scheduled in the future will be offered through the virtual process **only** while we are under pandemic operations. This reduces the risk of exposure for our staff, contractors, and incarcerated individuals, as well as their loved ones in the community.

Incarcerated marriages must comply with [RCW 26.04](#), [RCW 26.60](#), and [DOC 590.200 *Marriages and State Registered Domestic Partnerships*](#). Incident Command Posts will receive an ICS 204 form that provides all of the details and activities associated with the new process. Religious Coordinators will continue to be the point of contact to schedule and arrange virtual marriages for their respective facilities, receiving training for this process next week. This will enable us to launch this process as of January 1, 2021, offering this as the only option during COVID-19 operations.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Lisa Flynn, Correctional Program Administrator.

JC/SR:lf

cc: All Superintendents
All Incident Commanders
Dawn Taylor, CS4
Bruce Wood, CS3
Paige Perkinson