





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

December 28, 2020

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
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*. Religious Coordinators will continue to be the point of contact to schedule and arrange virtual marriages for their respective facilities, working with you and your intended spouse to prepare for the event. This process will officially launch on January 1, 2021 and will be the only available option for marriages during pandemic operations.

If your wedding was scheduled as an in-person event, please work with the Religious Coordinator to prepare for the virtual process. In-person events will not be authorized at this time.

JC/SR:lf

cc: All Superintendents
All Religious Coordinators
Dawn Taylor, CS4
Bruce Wood, CS3