

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SONOMA

**FILED**

In Re:

Order of the Presiding Judge

\_\_\_\_\_ /

MAR 16 2020

Clerk of Superior Court of California,  
County of Sonoma  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

In consideration of the public health crisis currently affecting our state, local, national, and international communities, the Sonoma County Superior Court will be limiting access to the Hall of Justice, Civil and Family Courthouse, the Juvenile Justice Center and the Empire Annex effective immediately. Courtrooms will practice social distancing, with any persons in the gallery instructed to sit at least six feet apart. The Court currently plans to resume regular court operations on Monday, April 6, 2020.

**Criminal Matters in the Hall of Justice:**

**A. Orders To Appear – and General Orders**

1. Effective immediately, any prior order to a defendant to appear in a misdemeanor case scheduled between March 16, 2020 to and including April 3, 2020 is rescinded and counsel can and should appear for clients in these proceedings via Penal Code §977. In the event calendars are limited to in-custody matters only, out-of-custody misdemeanor cases will be continued 30 days on a daily rolling basis. A separate order with specific court dates and reset dates will be filed and posted at the South entrance to the Hall of Justice.
2. Effective immediately, the Court will accept §977 waivers executed out of court for a defendant with a pending criminal matter who is out of custody and who has an appearance between March 16, 2020 to and including April 3, 2020 to facilitate continuances.
3. For persons under citation or order to appear on misdemeanor calendars, their matter will be automatically continued for 30 days. A chart of dates is posted by separate order.

**B. Jury Trials**

1. All jury trials scheduled between March 16, 2020 and March 31, 2020, are vacated and any person who has received a juror summons will be re-

summoned for a date in the future. This Order is based on a finding of good cause arising out of the Public Health Crisis declared by the County of Sonoma, the Governor of the State of California, and the President of the United States of America. This Order will facilitate the court's goal of eliminating public gatherings in our courthouses of large groups of people that jury trials necessarily require.

2. Any jury trial scheduled between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2020, inclusive that is a no-time waiver trial will be re-set for readiness on or after April 7, 2020 or a later time the parties agree upon.
3. Any misdemeanor jury trial scheduled between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2020, inclusive, with a time waiver will be re-set for no sooner than Thursday April 30, 2020.
4. Any felony jury trial scheduled for between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2020, inclusive with a time waiver will be re-set for no sooner than April 17, 2020.

**C. All Other Pending Criminal Appearances and Hearings**

1. Any criminal case pending with a date to appear scheduled between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2020, inclusive with an in-custody defendant will be conducted in court.
2. All other criminal matters with appearances set between March 1, 2020 to and including March 31, 2020, 30 days after the scheduled appearance on a day-to-day rolling basis.

**Civil and Probate Matters**

1. All civil and probate matters with the exception of ex parte family court domestic violence petitions, civil harassment ex parte petitions, unlawful detainer ex parte petitions, and foreclosure injunction applications will be continued 60 days from the court date falling between March 16, 2020 and March 31, 2020.
2. **Unlawful Detainers/Foreclosure Injunctions/Civil Harassment Hearings.** All hearings currently scheduled will be continued 30-45 days

from the date currently set. The court will send notice of the new court date.

3. **Small Claims Trials.** All Small Claims trials will be continued for 60 days.

### **Family Law Matters**

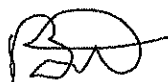
- A. **Department of Child Support Services.** All Child Support Hearings scheduled between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2020, will be continued for up to 60 days. The court will send notice of new court dates as soon as full operations resume.
- B. **Family Law and Civil Domestic Violence.** All ex parte requests shall be submitted by efilings if possible, or by dropping the petition or application off at the front door to the Civil and Family Courthouse. The Family Law Judge for each department shall re-schedule any other pending hearing as deemed appropriate.

### **Family Dependency Drug Court/Adult Drug Court/ Behavioral Health Court**

Appearances in these courts are considered essential and shall continue at their usual days and times the weeks during the court closure. Observing social distancing as ordered by the Health Officer, only the mother and father of the child will be permitted to enter the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) building and attend hearings with their child. For the protection of all persons the JJC is closed to the public and all other family members.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 16, 2020



Bradford DeMeo  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court