

1 **SUPERIOR COURT**  
2 **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**  
247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0302

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7 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
8 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**  
9

10 **IN RE:**

11 **AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDER:**

12 **LIMITING PUBLIC ACCESS DUE TO**  
13 **COVID-19**

} **GENERAL ORDER OF THE**  
PRESIDING JUDGE

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16 Public health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public  
17 Health, and local county health departments recommend stringent health and safety  
18 measures targeted at reducing the spread of COVID-19. On June 18, 2020, the  
19 California Department of Public Health (Department) issued guidance mandating that,  
20 subject to certain exemptions, all people in California must wear face coverings in any  
21 indoor public space, when engaged in work, and while outdoors in public spaces. The  
22 Department also requires persons to maintain social distancing of at least six feet  
23 between people, when feasible. Additionally, in her March 17, 2020 statewide order,  
24 Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye permitted courts to make changes in court  
25 operations during this pandemic to protect the health and safety of the public, court  
26 personal, and criminal defendants brought before the court.

27 As of July 7, 2020, 15,345 people within San Bernardino County have been  
28 confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and 269 people within San Bernardino County

1 have died from COVID-19. The court has found that it continues to be unsafe to  
2 conduct in-person proceedings that would require convening large groups of people,  
3 including parties, judicial officers, court staff, law enforcement, attorneys, witnesses,  
4 jurors, the public, and others. Consequently, pursuant to the Department's May 7,  
5 2020 Public Health Order, its June 18, 2020 Guidance, California Rule of Court, Rule  
6 10.603 and the Chief Justice's March 17, 2020 statewide order, the court HEREBY  
7 ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

8       Access to any and all San Bernardino Superior Court proceedings, including,  
9 but not limited to, arraignments, preliminary hearings, motions, ex partes, or trials, shall  
10 be limited to judges, commissioners, court staff, Judicial Council staff, vendors, jurors,  
11 parties, attorneys, witnesses who have been subpoenaed to testify, and other  
12 authorized persons. Other authorized persons include one support person statutorily  
13 permitted to accompany a person seeking a temporary restraining order and other  
14 persons who have been authorized to attend proceedings by the judges presiding over  
15 those proceeding.

16       Other authorized persons also include news reporters and news media  
17 representatives subject to prior approval by the court. News reporters and news media  
18 representatives should contact the court's Communications & Public Affairs Officer,  
19 Julie Van Hook, at (909) 708-8779 or courts-pio@sb-court.org to request and  
20 coordinate media access to court proceedings. News reporters and news media  
21 representatives will be permitted access to any and all court proceedings to the extent  
22 they can be accommodated in the designated courtroom under the court's social  
23 distancing protocols. The judge who is presiding over a proceeding determines if there  
24 is courtroom capacity with respect to social distancing. Nonparties (other than news  
25 reporters and news media representatives) who wish to observe a court proceeding  
26 shall contact the designated courtroom to find out if remote, technological options are  
27 available for the proceeding and/or to obtain approval to observe the proceeding from  
28 the judge presiding over the matter.

1 The children's waiting rooms will remain closed at all courthouse locations that  
2 contain them. While children will be permitted to accompany parents or guardians who  
3 have court business, to help manage social distancing requirements, parents and  
4 guardians of minor children are strongly encouraged not to bring children to  
5 courthouses and to make childcare arrangements before coming to a courthouse.

6 Nothing in this order abrogates a judge's discretion to permit access to any  
7 courtroom to persons who are subject to this order.

8 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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10 Dated: July 7, 2020

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15 MICHAEL A. SACHS  
16 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
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