

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

SANTA CRUZ BRANCH  
701 Ocean Street, Room 120  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



WATSONVILLE BRANCH  
1 Second Street, Room 300  
Watsonville, CA 95076

## EMERGENCY LOCAL RULES OF COURT

### **Emergency Local Rule 1 – Remote Appearances:**

Pursuant to California Judicial Council Emergency Rule 3, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/appendix-i.pdf>, this Court will proceed with conducting Remote Appearances via Zoom (Remote Appearance Application). This Emergency Rule is intended to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Appearance information for each department may be found at <https://www.santacruzcourt.org/content/remote-appearance-0>. Public access for specific subject matters will be live-streamed. Information is available at <https://www.santacruzcourt.org/content/remote-appearance>. There is no cost to appear remotely via Zoom.

### **Emergency Local Rule 1.1.01 – Appearances in Non-Criminal (Civil, Family, Restraining Orders, Probate, LPS, Appeals and Juvenile Dependency Departments):**

- a) Remote video appearances are mandatory for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judge.
- b) Self-represented litigants, witnesses and other participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.
- e) Documentary evidence shall be submitted electronically no later than seven court days before a trial or hearing. Details regarding evidence submission for each department will be posted on the Court's remote appearance web page.

### **Emergency Local Rule 1.1.02 – Appearances in Criminal Departments:**

The Court authorizes the use of remote appearance for *pretrial* proceedings in criminal cases in accordance with the requirements of Judicial Council Emergency Rule 3 and other applicable laws covering the use or involvement of remote appearance. The following details also apply:

- a) Remote appearances are voluntary for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judge.
- b) Defendants and other participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person unless otherwise directed by the Court or their attorney.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) When electing to appear remotely, attorneys must appear by video unless otherwise permitted by the Court to appear by audio-only in advance of the

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proceeding. Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.

- e) Attorneys must appear in person for any proceeding where they intend to present evidence to the Court unless otherwise directed by the Court in advance of the proceeding.

### **Emergency Local Rule 1.1.03 – Appearances in Traffic and Minor Violation Departments:**

The Court authorizes the use of remote appearance for *arraignment* proceedings in Traffic and minor violation cases according to the following details:

- a) Remote appearances are mandatory for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judicial officer.
- b) Self-represented litigants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person unless otherwise directed by the judicial officer.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) When electing to appear remotely, litigants are strongly encouraged to appear by video. Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.

### **Emergency Local Rule 1.1.04 – Appearances in Juvenile Justice**

- a) Remote video appearances are mandatory for all participants unless otherwise directed by the Court.
- b) Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.
- c) Attorneys must appear in person for any proceeding where they intend to present evidence to the Court unless otherwise directed by the Court in advance of the proceeding.