

Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Justice with Dignity and Respect



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Court Executive Officer

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June 21, 2021

To All Attorneys and Court Users:

The purpose of this message is to inform you of significant changes to the Court's COVID-19 protocol. The following modifications are being implemented immediately to align with the new guidelines, rules and regulations recently issued by the California Department of Public Health, Cal/OSHA, and the CDC.

Face Coverings

- Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated staff and members of the public who enter court spaces. Vaccinated employees are free to continue wearing face coverings if they choose.
- Masks are still required for unvaccinated staff and members of the public in all court spaces.
- Members of the public will continue to be required to wear a mask in the Court's Law Library and Self-Help Center.

Social Distancing

- Social Distancing fixtures in the public spaces will be removed and the pre-COVID-19 capacity limits will return slowly. The public is asked to maintain 3 feet of distance from others in the courtroom for a period of time before the requirement goes away completely.

Remote Appearance Changes

- Effective Monday, June 21, attorneys may return to the courtroom for non-criminal matters; however, Zoom will remain an option. In addition, in-person appearances may be required at the direction of the Judge.
- Small Claims litigants will be asked to tell the court if they plan to appear remotely by submitting a new local form. The form will be available on our website.

- A new Amended Emergency Local Rule 1.4 for Remote Appearances is being prepared and will be posted on the court's website.
- Evidence submission rules of 7 court days will remain in place if a party appears remotely.
- The audio Livestream in non-criminal cases will cease on Wednesday, June 23, as the courtrooms will now be open for public access.
- Family Court Services will continue to meet with parents via remote appearance tools. In 30 days, we will begin resuming optional in-person mediation sessions.
- Juvenile Dependency Court will commence a hybrid remote and in-person court proceedings on July 12. Juvenile Justice Court will be conducted remotely until further notice.
- Probate Court Investigators will continue to conduct interviews remotely. The court expects to resume in-person interviews in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Alex Calvo

Court Executive Officer