



FILED

JUN 24 2021

ALEX CALVO, CLERK
BY SOPHIA ESPINOZA ALVARADO
DEPUTY, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
JUVENILE DIVISION
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

**SECOND AMENDED STANDING ORDER FOR DEPENDENCY COURT OPERATIONS CRUZ
COUNTY SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER DUE TO COVID-19**

On April 3, 2020 this Order from the Presiding Juvenile Judge Denine Guy was originally executed as it applies to all Juvenile Dependency cases/matters from April 1 through June 30, 2020. Since that date, the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of California issued Emergency Rules of Court to apply and be utilized for all trial courts throughout the State of California. This Amended Order reflects reference to Emergency Rules of Court, adopted April 6, 2020 and apply since that date until 90 days after the Governor of California lifts the Shelter in Place Executive Order due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency to exist in California. If the Emergency Rules of Court are amended or repealed by the Judicial Council before that time, the remainder of the orders herein shall remain in effect as outlined above.

Per the recommendations of the Judicial Council of March 27, 2020, best practice is still to adhere to statutory timelines whenever possible or practicable. Counsel, Parties, Family and Children Services (FCS), CASA are directed to review any future Emergency Order issued by our Chief Justice signed after the date of execution of this Order regarding any extension of statutory deadlines pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic and authority under California Government Code 68115(a) for the County of Santa Cruz as it pertains to juvenile matters.

1 The First Amended Order was intended to recognize the changed and/or changing timelines of
2 the Emergency Orders issued by the Governor and/or our Chief Justice. This Second Amended
3 Order is to address the opening of in person court hearings since the Governor modified the
4 social distancing and mask wearing restrictions for workplaces. See **bold** added language
5 below.

6 **Calendars & Appearances:**

7 **Until and including July 9, 2021**, all hearings on court calendars are to be heard remotely via
8 technology as instructed by the court (consistent with Judicial Council recommendation
9 March 28, 2020, and the Order by Chief Cantil-Sakauye for use of technology to conduct
10 judicial proceedings and court operations remotely of March 30, 2020, and Emergency Rules
11 of Court 3 and 6, and California Rule of Court 5.531 which also provides for telephonic
12 appearances). Appearances of counsel, CASA, family and children shall be through technology.
13 Counsel and social workers are to obtain the family/minor's call in telephone numbers and to
14 have clients on telephonic/technology standby for calendar matters and hearings.

15 **Starting July 12, 2021**, all Dependency Court calendars will be heard live back in court in
16 Watsonville, Department A. There will be strong preference for attorneys and parents to
17 appear in person for all matters, unless otherwise directed by the judge. All other
18 participants will receive direction from the court regarding in person or Zoom appearances.
19 **When directed or allowed to appear remotely**, participants should appear by video if and
20 when that technology is available to them. If not available, telephone appearances will be
21 allowed.

22 **The Santa Cruz Superior Court's COVID-19 protocol as of June 18, 2021**, effects Court
23 employees and Court users in the following ways:

24
25 **Face Coverings**

26 **Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated staff and members of the public who enter**
27 **court spaces. Anyone is free to continue wearing face coverings if they choose. Masks are**
28 **still required for unvaccinated staff and members of the public in all court spaces.**

1 **Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask at all times. All members of the public will still**
2 **be asked to wear a mask in the Court's Law Library and Self Help Center.**

3 **Social Distancing**

4 **The public will be asked to maintain 3 feet of distance from others in the courtroom for a**
5 **period of time before the requirement goes away completely.**

6 Any documents efiled into the Court's Tyler Odyssey system must include the hearing date in
7 the filing description box along with a description of what it is so staff can prioritize
8 documents for immediate upcoming court dates.

9 **Emergency Rules of Court**

10
11 Juvenile Dependency matters are not criminal proceedings as described in Emergency Rule 3
12 (a)(2) as applicable to remote court appearances.

13
14 Pursuant to Emergency Rule of Court 3, subsection (a)(1) the Juvenile Court is requiring that
15 judicial proceedings and juvenile court operations be conducted remotely. If there is some
16 critical need or extraordinary circumstances to warrant an in-person trial or hearing, that
17 request must be made of the court in advance for the court to grant permission and specially
18 schedule it based on availability of staff and resources. Hearings will be conducted consistent
19 to Emergency Rule of Court 6(c), and California Rules of Court 5.531.

20
21 
22 _____
23 DENINE J. GUY
24 Presiding Juvenile Judge of the Superior Court

25
26
27
28
DATED: June 24, 2021