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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 24, 2021

MANDATORY EFILING OF FAMILY LAW CASES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Virtual Information Session for Attorneys, Legal Professionals and Electronic Filing Service Providers to be held October 1

The Family Law Division will implement mandatory electronic filing (efiling) for specified documents filed in Family Law cases in which litigants are represented by attorneys beginning Monday, November 15, 2021, as required per Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor's directive in General Order 2021-GEN-032-00, issued on September 17 (attached). Self-represented litigants also will have the option to efile as of November 15. Efiling provides efficiencies and enhances the Court's ability to maintain complete and easily accessible records.

The Court will offer a virtual informational session on Friday, October 1 for attorneys, legal professionals and Electronic Filing Service Providers (EFSPs) to provide detailed information and answer questions. A recording of the information session and a Frequently Asked Questions document will be posted to the court's website after the meeting.

Virtual Information Session: 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. on Friday, October 1

Detailed information about registering with an EFSP, exempt documents, common rejection reasons, proposed orders, and more will be provided. [Use this link to join as an attendee for the Virtual Meeting.](#)

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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

SEP 17 2021

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy
Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

IN RE MANDATORY ELECTRONIC) GENERAL ORDER
FILING FOR FAMILY LAW)
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IT IS SO ORDERED that Effective November 15, 2021 the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles will mandate electronic filing of all documents filed in Family Law cases by litigants represented by attorneys. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.253(b).) All electronically filed documents in the Family Law Division are subject to the following:

1) DEFINITIONS

- a) **“Bookmark”** A bookmark is a PDF document navigational tool that allows the reader to quickly locate and navigate to a designated point of interest within a document.
- b) **“Efiling Portal”** The official court website includes a webpage, referred to as the efiling portal, that gives litigants access to the approved Electronic Filing Service Providers.
- c) **“Electronic Envelope”** A transaction through the electronic service provider for submission of documents to the Court for processing which may contain one or more PDF documents attached.
- d) **“Electronic Filing”** Electronic Filing (eFiling) is the electronic transmission to a Court of a document in electronic form. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.250(b)(7).)
- e) **“Electronic Filing Service Provider”** An Electronic Filing Service Provider (EFSP) is a person or entity that receives an electronic filing from a party for retransmission to the Court.

1 In the submission of filings, the EFSP does so on behalf of the electronic filer and not as an
2 agent of the Court. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.250(b)(8).)

- 3 f) **“Electronic Signature”** For purposes of these local rules and in conformity with Code of
4 Civil Procedure section 17, subdivision (b)(3), section 34, and section 1010.6, subdivision
5 (b)(2), Government Code section 68150, subdivision (g), and California Rules of Court, rule
6 2.257, the term “Electronic Signature” is generally defined as an electronic sound, symbol, or
7 process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted
8 by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record.
- 9 g) **“Hyperlink”** An electronic link providing direct access from one distinctively marked place in
10 a hypertext or hypermedia document to another in the same or different document.
- 11 h) **“Portable Document Format”** A digital document format that preserves all fonts, formatting,
12 colors, and graphics of the original source document, regardless of the application platform
13 used.

14 2) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING

15 a) Trial Court Records

16 Pursuant to Government Code section 68150, trial court records may be created, maintained,
17 and preserved in electronic format. Any document that the Court receives electronically must
18 be clerically processed and must satisfy all legal filing requirements in order to be filed as an
19 official court record (California Rules of Court, rules 2.100, et seq. and 2.253(b)(6)).

20 b) Represented Litigants

21 Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.253(b), represented litigants are required to
22 electronically file documents with the Court through an approved EFSP.

23 c) Public Notice

24 The Court will issue a Public Notice with effective dates the Court requires parties to
25 electronically file documents through one or more approved EFSPs. Public Notices containing
26 effective dates and the list of EFSPs are available on the Court’s website, at www.lacourt.org.

27 3) EXEMPT LITIGANTS

- 28 a) Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.253(b)(2), self-represented litigants are exempt

1 from mandatory electronic filing requirements.

2 b) Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1010.6, subdivision (d)(3) and California Rules of
3 Court, rule 2.253(b)(4), any party may make application to the Court requesting to be excused
4 from filing documents electronically and be permitted to file documents by conventional
5 means if the party shows undue hardship or significant prejudice.

6 c) The Local Child Support Agency and Department of Child Support Services are exempt from
7 this order mandating electronic filing through an EFSP and may electronically file documents
8 in accordance with the documents eligible for filing in the statewide Department of Child
9 Support Services filing interface and as agreed upon with the Superior Court of CA, County of
10 Los Angeles.

11 4) EXEMPT FILINGS

12 a) The following documents shall not be filed electronically:

- 13 i) Peremptory Challenges or Challenges for Cause of a Judicial Officer pursuant to Code
14 of Civil Procedure sections 170.6 or 170.3;
- 15 ii) Proposed Judgments with supporting documents and self-addressed, stamped
16 envelopes;
- 17 iii) Proposed Qualified Domestic Relation Orders (QDROs) with supporting documents
18 and self-addressed, stamped envelopes;
- 19 iv) Bonds/Undertaking documents;
- 20 v) Trial and Evidentiary Hearing Exhibits;
- 21 vi) Documents submitted conditionally under seal. The actual motion or application shall
22 be electronically filed. A courtesy copy of the electronically filed motion or application
23 to submit documents conditionally under seal must be provided with the documents
24 submitted conditionally under seal;
- 25 vii) Documents filed in a case initiated by the Local Child Support Agency, except as
26 specified in section 3(c) of this order.
- 27 viii) Lodged documents attached to a Notice of Lodgment shall be lodged and/or served
28 conventionally in paper form. The actual document entitled, "Notice of Lodgment,"

1 shall be filed electronically.

2 5) ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM WORKING PROCEDURES

3 a) Electronic filing service providers must obtain and manage registration information for persons
4 and entities electronically filing with the court.

5 b) Court-generated orders and informational documents will be served via email resource account
6 to the email address registered with the EFSP. The resource accounts that the court will use
7 include:

8 Stanley Mosk Courthouse: SMC-FLNotification@lacourt.org

9 Michael D. Antonovich Courthouse: AV-FLNotification@lacourt.org

10 Chatsworth Courthouse: CH-FLNotification@lacourt.org

11 Compton Courthouse: CM-FLNotification@lacourt.org

12 Long Beach Courthouse: LB-FLNotification@lacourt.org

13 Pomona South Courthouse: PS-FLNotification@lacourt.org

14 Pasadena Courthouse: PD-FLNotification@lacourt.org

15 Torrance Courthouse: TR-FLNotification@lacourt.org

16 Inglewood Courthouse: IW-FLNotification@lacourt.org

17 Santa Monica Courthouse: SM-FLNotification@lacourt.org

18 Van Nuys East Courthouse: VE-FLNotification@lacourt.org

19 Whittier Courthouse: WH-FLNotification@lacourt.org

20 c) Litigant and attorney-generated orders will be posted on the Attorney Portal and conformed
21 copies will be sent by mail to the submitting party. The submitting party shall thereafter serve
22 all other persons entitled to notice.

23 6) TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

24 a) Electronic documents must be electronically filed in PDF, text searchable format when
25 technologically feasible without impairment of the document's image.

26 b) The table of contents for any filing must be bookmarked.

27 c) Electronic documents, including but not limited to, declarations, proofs of service, and
28 exhibits, must be bookmarked within the document pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule

1 3.1110(f)(4). Electronic bookmarks must include links to the first page of each bookmarked
2 item (e.g., exhibits, declarations, deposition excerpts) and with bookmark titles that identify the
3 bookmarked item and briefly describe the item.

4 d) Attachments to primary documents must be bookmarked.

5 i) Exhibits (including exhibits to requests for orders and declarations);

6 ii) Transcripts (including excerpts within transcripts);

7 iii) Points and Authorities;

8 iv) Citations; and

9 v) Supporting Briefs.

10 e) Use of hyperlinks within documents (including attachments and exhibits) is strongly
11 encouraged.

12 f) Accompanying Documents

13 Each document accompanying a single pleading must be electronically filed as a **separate**
14 digital PDF document.

15 g) Multiple Documents

16 Multiple documents relating to one case can be uploaded in one envelope transaction.

17 h) Writs and Abstracts

18 Writs and Abstracts must be submitted as a separate electronic envelope.

19 i) Sealed Documents

20 If and when a judicial officer orders documents to be filed under seal, those documents must be
21 filed electronically (unless exempted under paragraph 4); the burden of accurately designating
22 the documents as sealed at the time of electronic submission is the submitting party's
23 responsibility.

24 j) Redaction

25 Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.201, it is the submitting party's responsibility to
26 redact confidential information (such as using initials for names of minors, using the last four
27 digits of a social security number, and using the year for date of birth) so that the information
28 shall not be publicly displayed.

1 7) ELECTRONIC FILING SCHEDULE

2 a) Filed Date

3 i) Any document received electronically by the court between 12:00 am and 11:59:59 pm
4 shall be deemed to have been effectively filed on that court day if accepted for filing. Any
5 document received electronically on a non-court day, is deemed to have been effectively
6 filed on the next court day if accepted. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.253(b)(6); Code
7 Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(b)(3).)

8 ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of this order, if a digital document is not filed in due
9 course because of: (1) an interruption in service; (2) a transmission error that is not the fault
10 of the transmitter; or (3) a processing failure that occurs after receipt, the Court may order,
11 either on its own motion or by noticed motion submitted with a declaration for Court
12 consideration, that the document be deemed filed and/or that the document's filing date
13 conform to the attempted transmission date.

14 8) EX PARTE APPLICATIONS

15 Ex parte applications, not including Restraining Order matters, and all documents in support or
16 opposition thereof must be electronically. A Restraining Order ex parte application may be
17 filed electronically or conventionally. See L.R. 5.3(a)(1) and (2).

18 9) DOCUMENTS FOR RELATED CASES

19 Documents in related cases must be electronically filed in the efilng portal for the designated
20 case type of the related case (for example, documents in a civil matter that has been related to a
21 family law matter must be electronically filed in the civil efilng portal).

22 10) REQUESTS FOR ORDERS

23 Requests for Orders (RFO) will be automatically scheduled by the case management system on
24 the next available date. A party may request a change to the system-assigned RFO or other
25 hearing date per separate guidance to follow.

26 11) PRINTED COURTESY COPIES

27 Nothing in this General Order precludes a Judicial Officer from requesting a courtesy copy of a
28 document electronically filed.

12) WAIVER OF FEES AND COSTS FOR ELECTRONICALLY FILED DOCUMENTS

a) Fees and costs associated with electronic filing must be waived for any litigant who has received a fee waiver. (California Rules of Court, rules 2.253(b)(1), 2.258(b), Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(d)(2).)

b) Fee waiver applications for waiver of court fees and costs pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1010.6, subdivision (b)(6), and California Rules of Court, rule 2.252(f), may be electronically filed in any authorized action or proceeding.

13) SIGNATURES ON ELECTRONIC FILING

Signatures on electronic filings must comply with CRC 2.257.

This General Order is effective immediately and is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Family Law Supervising Judge and/or Presiding Judge.

DATED: September 17, 2021



Eric C. Taylor
ERIC C. TAYLOR
Presiding Judge