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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 13, 2020

PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE PROHIBITS USE OF FACE MASKS WITH VALVES IN ALL LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES

Non-Exempt Individuals Who Refuse to Wear a Face Mask will be Denied Courthouse/Courtroom Entry Under Revised Mandatory Face Mask Order

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile today issued a revised mandatory face mask order that prohibits the use of face masks with valves in all Los Angeles County courthouses. The new Order also requires that face masks be worn beneath face shields except as required by a physician. Children under the age of two are exempt from the Order.

On April 10, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) issued a Guidance for Face Coverings which it subsequently amended on June 2, 2020, June 19, 2020, June 26, 2020 and July 17, 2020. The Court is aligning its mandatory face mask requirements in all Los Angeles County courthouses with Public Health and California Department of Public Health guidances, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, to prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19.

Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them from wearing a face mask, are exempt from the Order. Nevertheless, they must take whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as wearing a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge as long as their medical condition allows it. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this Order as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA liaison at each courthouse. A list of liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx.

To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a face mask may be scheduled when fewer people are present in court.

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FACE MASK ORDER

2-2-2-2

To prevent or slow the spread of Covid-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant to Code Civ. Proc. § 128, Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent powers of the Court (In re Reno (2012) 65 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with state and local public health guidelines, THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS:

- All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face mask over their nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom.
- Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a face mask will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- Individuals who remove their face masks after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.
- Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or courtroom by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's personnel.
- Individuals are required to maintain at least (6) six feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within their household) at all times. Comply with social distancing signage throughout the courthouse.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand-washing hygiene and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

The Order, which is attached, replaces Presiding Judge Brazile's July 6, 2020 Order. Today's Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Judicial officers and court employees also are required to wear face masks in all courthouses, courtrooms and public spaces unless they have a medical exemption. Paper masks will be available for the public at security screening areas at courthouse entrances.

Mandatory use of a face mask is part of the Court's [Here For You | Safe For You](#) plan to provide a safe courthouse environment while offering services that allow court business to be conducted remotely. Whether appearing by phone, from home, the office or coming to the courthouse, the Court provides safe, efficient options to access justice. The Court's remote technology options promote social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person. Pre-scheduled appointments are required for in-person transactions at the courthouse.

Information on [Here For You | Safe For You](#) can be found [here](#) and Twitter page ([@LASuperiorCourt](#)).

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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

OCT 13 2020

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE RE MANDATORY
USE OF FACE MASKS AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN
EFFECT DURING THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, national, state and local elected officials declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions. Executive orders and orders from public health authorities required individuals to remain in their homes (Safe-at-Home Orders) to slow and reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

On March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) declared a local and public health emergency in response to the increased spread of the novel coronavirus across the County of Los Angeles.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti both issued, respectively, Stay at Home and Safer at Home orders.

On March 21, 2020, Public Health issued a revised Safer at Home Order for the Control of COVID-19 that prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings and events. The order also requires businesses, except those defined as an Essential Business, to cease in-person operations and close to the public. The order requires individuals to maintain a physical separation from others of at least six (6) feet and advises persons 65 years of age and over and persons with underlying

1 health conditions to avoid person-to-person contact.

2 On May 29, 2020, Public Health issued a revised order regarding Reopening Safer at Work
 3 and in the Community for Control of COVID-19. Among other things, it provides, “People leaving
 4 their residences must strictly comply with the Social (Physical) Distancing requirements stated in
 5 this Order and specified in guidance or protocols established by the County Department of Public
 6 Health; this includes wearing a cloth face covering whenever there is or can be in contact with
 7 others who are non-household members in both public and private places, which reduces the risk of
 8 transmission to others from people who do not have symptoms. The use of face coverings is
 9 commonly referred to as ‘source control.’” County of Los Angeles Public Health Department Order
 10 of the Health Officer, May 29, 2020, p. 2, paragraph 3b. On April 10, 2020, Public Health issued a
 11 Guidance for Face Coverings which it subsequently amended on June 2, 2020, June 19, 2020, June
 12 26, 2020 and July 17, 2020.¹

13 The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it
 14 serves. In the absence of a cure, treatment, or effective vaccine for the highly contagious novel
 15 coronavirus, social distancing, face coverings, and good hygiene are the only tools available to slow
 16 or prevent its spread. The Court has taken extensive measures to reduce the number of persons
 17 coming to its courthouses, including limiting the cases to be heard on any given day, spreading the
 18 scheduling of cases, directing prospective jurors to courtrooms instead of jury assembly rooms,
 19 facilitating remote telephonic/video court transactions with the virtual Clerk’s Office, online and
 20 remote Self-Help services, remote mediations, teleworking employees, encouraging counsel and
 21 litigants to appear remotely, and implementing scheduled appointments for in-person transactions at
 22 the courthouse.

23 To prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant
 24 to Code Civ. Proc. § 128, Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent
 25 powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 65 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with federal, state
 26 and local public health guidelines, **THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS² AS**

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 28 ¹ <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protection/GuidanceClothFaceCoverings.pdf>

² This order supersedes and replaces the Court’s July 6, 2020 order on face coverings.

1 **FOLLOWS:**

- 2 1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face mask over their nose and
- 3 mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face masks with
- 4 valves should not be used. Face shields may not be used without a face mask except as
- 5 required by a physician. Children under the age of two (2) are exempt from the order.
- 6 2. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them
- 7 from wearing a face mask are exempt from this order. Nevertheless, they must take whatever
- 8 protective measures their condition permits, such as wearing a face shield with a drape on the
- 9 bottom edge as long as their medical condition allows it. Individuals with disabilities who seek
- 10 an exemption from this order as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with
- 11 Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA liaison
- 12 at the courthouse. A list of ADA liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx.
- 13 To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may
- 14 be scheduled when fewer people are present in court.
- 15 3. Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a face mask will be denied entry to the
- 16 courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 17 4. Individuals who remove their face masks after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be
- 18 reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal
- 19 matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.
- 20 Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or
- 21 courtroom by Los Angeles Sheriff Department’s personnel.
- 22 5. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your
- 23 household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.
- 24 6. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and
- 25 cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

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1 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND REPLACES AND**
2 **SUPERSEDES THE JULY 6, 2020 FACE COVERING ORDER, AND WILL REMAIN IN**
3 **EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

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6 DATED: October 13, 2020



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Kevin C. Brazile

KEVIN C. BRAZILE
Presiding Judge