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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 31, 2020**

## **PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT ERIC C. TAYLOR ISSUES ORDER AUTHORIZING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY CONTINUANCES FOR CRIMINAL, JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MATTERS AS COVID-19 CASES SOAR IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Presiding Judge-elect Eric C. Taylor issued a General Order today extending last-day deadlines for Criminal trials as well as Juvenile Dependency cases pursuant to the emergency powers granted to him by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye under Government Code 68115. The new Order takes effect upon today's expiration of General Order 2020-GEN-026-00, issued on December 2, 2020.

"Since Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and state and local health authorities issued stay-at-home orders, the Court has worked diligently to strike a balance between maintaining access to justice and safeguarding the well-being of those who work in the Court or need its services," Presiding Judge-elect Taylor said. "This emergency Order will allow flexibility to continue last-day matters to reduce the number of people allowed into our courthouses during the pandemic."

The Order, which is attached, provides emergency relief as follows:

### **Criminal:**

- Extends the time provided by section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination and the defendant's right to release from 10 court days to not more than 30 court days.
- Extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would expire from January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021, inclusive.
- Extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021, inclusive.
- Extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held sooner and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody misdemeanor pretrial hearings set on January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021, inclusive.

**-MORE-**

## GENERAL ORDER 2-2-2-2

### Juvenile Dependency:

- Extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending Dependency proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021, inclusive.
- Extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021, inclusive.

The Order requires, in accordance with [General Order No. 2020-GEN-016-02](#), all persons to wear a face mask over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings (see [California Department of Public Health Guidance Concerning the Use of Face Coverings](#) issued on June 18, 2020) are urged to seek an accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment. Sheriff's Department personnel are directed to enforce the mandatory face mask requirement and social distancing protocols in courthouses.

Since the resumption of court services on June 15 and phased resumption of hearings began on June 22 in all 38 courthouses, the Court:

- Equipped all 600 courtrooms across the county with remote courtroom appearance technology;
- Posted social distancing signs to limit the number of people allowed in hallways, courtrooms and elevators;
- Provided hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in key traffic areas, and increased cleaning of restrooms and high-touch surfaces;
- Installed over 5,600 plexiglass barriers at security screening stations, public counters and courtrooms;
- Provided drop boxes outside each courthouse;
- Arranged for persons seeking or opposing restraining orders to present their papers for filing and judicial consideration by email resource account, fax filing or drop box; and
- Required advance appointments for in-person service at the Clerk's Office and Self-Help Centers. Call centers at each courthouse are available to reserve appointments for in-person service and get answers to questions. Contact the call centers at this link: <http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/pdf/CALLCENTERPHONENUMBERSfinal.pdf>.

The Court's *Here For You | Safe For You* initiative provides numerous protective measures to operate courthouses safely, including 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 courtroom appearance technology options promote social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person.

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

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Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

**DEC 31 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 COVID-19  
PANDEMIC

**GENERAL ORDER**

As Los Angeles County faces a dangerous rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County (LASC or Court) must take more stringent measures to continue to operate safely.

**THE COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. Courthouse Access and Remote Appearances:**

- a. In the interest of safeguarding the well-being of court users and enforcing social distancing, persons seeking services from the Clerk’s Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers must have a prescheduled appointment. For telephone or video assistance, or [to schedule an appointment](#), the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court’s website, [www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org).
- b. Access to LASC proceedings is governed by [General Order 2020-GEN-025-00](#) issued on November 23, 2020.

**2. Face Coverings:**

In accordance with [General Order No. 2020-GEN-016-02](#) issued on October 13, 2020, all persons are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while

1 in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face  
2 coverings compliant with the California Department of Public Health [Guidance](#)  
3 [Concerning the Use of Face Coverings](#) issued on June 18, 2020, are urged to seek an  
4 accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their  
5 court appearance or appointment.

6 **3. Judicial Emergency Order Continuances:**

7 a. Juvenile Dependency

8 i. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare  
9 and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending  
10 dependency proceedings must be released from custody to not more than  
11 seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline  
12 would otherwise expire from **January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021**,  
13 inclusive.

14 ii. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare  
15 and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending  
16 dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than  
17 seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline  
18 would otherwise expire from **January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021**,  
19 inclusive.

20 b. Criminal

21 i. Pursuant to the authority granted by the [March 30, 2020 Statewide](#)  
22 [Emergency Order](#) issued by the Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief  
23 Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council which the Court  
24 implemented in its [General Order No. 2020-GEN-007-00](#) issued on April 2,  
25 2020, and until further notice, the Court extends the time provided by  
26 section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination  
27 and the defendant's right to release from 10 court days to not more than 30  
28 court days.

- ii. The Court extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would expire from **January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021**, inclusive.
- iii. The Court extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on **January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021**, inclusive.
- iv. The Court extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held sooner and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody misdemeanor pretrial hearings set on **January 4, 2021 to January 28, 2021**, inclusive.

**THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS EXPIRE BY THEIR TERMS, ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS. THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

**GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFORE, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: December 31, 2020



*Eric C. Taylor*  
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 ERIC C. TAYLOR  
 Presiding Judge-elect