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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CORRECTED
December 3, 2020

PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE ISSUES ORDER AUTHORIZING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY CONTINUANCES FOR CRIMINAL TRIALS, JUVENILE DEPENDENCY MATTERS TO FURTHER LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLOWED IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile 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.

"Today's Order will provide some much-needed flexibility to judicial officers to continue last-day matters, which will help to reduce the number of attorneys, jurors, witnesses and others in Los Angeles County courthouses," Presiding Judge Brazile said. "Public health and safety are the Court's paramount concerns during the worsening COVID-19 pandemic in Los Angeles County and statewide. The Court is taking decisive actions this week to limit the number of persons in courthouses while seeking to balance its obligations to render justice with its duty to protect all who visit and work in its courthouses."

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

Criminal:

- Pursuant to the authority granted by the March 30, 2020 Statewide Emergency Order issued by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, which the Court implemented in its General Order No. 2020-GEN-07-00 issued on April 2, 2020, and until further notice, the Court 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.
- 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 **December 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

Juvenile Dependency:

- The Court 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 **December 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

-MORE-

**GENERAL ORDER
2-2-2-2**

- The Court 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 **December 7, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

Today's Order follows Presiding Judge Brazile's [General Order 2020-GEN-025-00](#) on November 23, 2020, which requires strict access limits to Los Angeles County courthouses.

To address concerns about lack of social distancing in some courthouse hallways and public areas, all attorneys, litigants, witnesses and authorized persons are prohibited from gathering with or speaking to anyone outside their household in courthouse hallways or public areas of the Court unless they can do so at least six feet apart from each other and while wearing masks over their nose and mouth.

To enforce social distancing, each court department shall schedule only the number of matters during each session as it can accommodate consistent with social distancing requirements in courtrooms and outside hallways of the courthouse.

Eating in courthouse hallways and courtrooms shall be prohibited at all times.

Sheriff's Department personnel are directed to enforce the mandatory face mask requirement and social distancing protocols in courthouses ([2020-GEN-016](#)).

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;
- Required masks (without valves) be worn over the nose and mouth inside courthouses, unless medically certified as an exception;
- 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; 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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FILED
 Superior Court of California
 County of Los Angeles

DEC 02 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

In its continuing efforts to balance its obligation to render justice with its duty to protect the health and well-being of litigants, attorneys, court workers, judicial officers, and others who enter the courthouse during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County (LASC or Court) implemented numerous protective measures to continue to operate safely and resumed criminal jury trials in late August and other jury trials in October. However, the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County compels the Court to take decisive action to limit the number of persons in its courthouses.

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.

1 b. Access to LASC proceedings is governed by [General Order No. 2020-GEN-025-00](#)
2 issued on November 23, 2020.

3 **2. Face Coverings:**

4 In accordance with [General Order No. 2020-GEN-016-02](#) issued on October 13, 2020, all
5 persons are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while in a
6 courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings
7 compliant with the California Department of Public Health [Guidance Concerning the Use](#)
8 [of Face Coverings](#) issued on June 18, 2020, are urged to seek an accommodation under
9 [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or
10 appointment.

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

12 a. Juvenile Dependency

- 13 i. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and
14 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
15 proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days,
16 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
17 from **December 7, 2020** to **December 31, 2020**, inclusive.
- 18 ii. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and
19 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
20 proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days,
21 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
22 from **December 7, 2020** to **December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

23 b. Criminal

- 24 i. Pursuant to the authority granted by the [March 30, 2020 Statewide Emergency](#)
25 [Order](#) issued by Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair
26 of the Judicial Council which the Court implemented in its [General Order No.](#)
27 [2020-GEN-07-00](#) issued on April 2, 2020, and until further notice, the Court
28

1 extends the time provided by section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of
 2 a preliminary examination and the defendant's right to release from 10 court
 3 days to not more than 30 court days.

4 ii. The Court extends the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code
 5 for the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to
 6 cases in which the original or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise
 7 would expire from **December 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

8 iii. The Court extends by 90 calendar days post-conviction progress reports set on
 9 **December 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, inclusive.

10 iv. The Court extends by 90 calendar days, unless statutorily required to be held
 11 sooner and the defendant does not consent to a continuance, out-of-custody
 12 misdemeanor pretrial hearings set on **December 2, 2020 to December 31, 2020**,
 13 inclusive.

14
 15 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT**
 16 **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS EXPIRE BY THEIR TERMS,**
 17 **ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS. THIS**
 18 **ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

19 **GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20
 21
 22
 23 DATED: December 2, 2020



24 *Kevin C. Brazile*
 25 KEVIN C. BRAZILE
 26 Presiding Judge
 27
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