

**FILED**  
**Superior Court of California**  
**County of Los Angeles**

APR 14 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

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of California have recognized that the world, country, and state face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

In response to the spread of COVID-19, Governor Gavin Newsom on March 4, 2020, declared a state of emergency in California, which was followed on March 13, 2020, by President Donald J. Trump declaring a national emergency. Beginning on March 16, 2020, California counties, including Los Angeles, began issuing shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, requiring all Californians to stay home, subject to certain limited exemptions. Courts are included in this exemption.

Public Health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public gatherings and spaces. The continuous operation of our courts is essential for our constitutional form of government, for providing due process and protecting the public. However, courts are clearly places with high risks during this pandemic because they require gatherings of judicial officers, court staff,

1 litigants, attorneys, witnesses, defendants, law enforcement, and juries—well in excess of the numbers  
2 allowed for gathering under current executive and health orders.

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4 In response, on March 20, 2020, the Chief Justice of California, the Honorable Tani Cantil-  
5 Sakauye, issued an advisory recommending steps superior courts could take to mitigate the effect of  
6 reduced staffing and court closures and to protect the health of judges, court staff, and court users. On  
7 March 23, 2020, the Chief Justice also issued an order requiring superior courts to suspend jury trials  
8 for 60 days, unless they were able to conduct such a trial at an earlier date, upon a finding of good  
9 cause shown or through the use of remote technology. That order also extended holding last day trials  
10 in criminal and civil proceedings; and authorized courts to adopt any proposed local rules or rule  
11 amendment intended to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to take effect immediately,  
12 without advance circulation for public comment.

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14 On March 27, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-38-20, which among other  
15 things, suspends Government Code section 68115 and any other provision of law to the extent that  
16 those laws impose or imply a limitation on the Chief Justice's authority to authorize, via emergency  
17 order or statewide rule, any court to take any action that is necessary to maintain the safe and orderly  
18 operation of the courts. On March 28, 2020, the Judicial Council met in an emergency session and  
19 unanimously authorized and supported the Chief Justice issuing statewide emergency orders to extend  
20 statutory deadlines for preliminary hearings, arraignments, and last day trials in both criminal and civil  
21 proceedings.

22  
23 On March 30, 2020, the Chief Justice issued an order that, inter alia, (a) extended the time  
24 period provided in section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination and  
25 the defendant's right to release from 10 court days to not more than 30 court days; (b) extended the  
26 time period provided in section 825 of the Penal Code within which a defendant charged with a felony  
27 offense must be taken before a magistrate from 48 hours to not more than seven days; (c) extended the  
28 time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by no more

1 than 60 days from the last date on which the statutory deadline otherwise would have expired; and (d)  
2 extended the time periods provided in sections 583.310 and 583.320 of the Code of Civil Procedure to  
3 bring an action to trial by no more than 60 days from the last date on which the statutory deadline  
4 otherwise would have expired. These time extensions were in addition to any relief provided pursuant  
5 to a court-specific emergency order issued under a subdivision of Government Code section 68115  
6 related to another time extension or form of relief.

7  
8 On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council issued additional Emergency Rules 1 through 11. These  
9 Rules pertain to a number of different subject matters and were effective immediately.

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11 In addition, upon the renewed request of Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile, the Chief Justice  
12 determined that the conditions described in section 68115(a) continue to exist, and authorized the  
13 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles to undertake a number of actions.

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15 In light of these actions and orders, and as supplemented by the specific authority granted to  
16 the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, by the Chief Justice pursuant to the  
17 provisions of 68115 of the Government Code,

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19 This court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 20  
21 1. **From April 17, 2020 until May 12, 2020**, inclusive, all courtrooms will remain closed  
22 for judicial business, except for the following time-sensitive, essential functions:  
23 a. Civil Temporary Restraining Orders  
24 b. Family Temporary Restraining Orders  
25 c. Civil Ex Parte Proceedings<sup>1</sup>

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27 <sup>1</sup> From April 17, 2020 until May 12, 2020, all parties may appear telephonically in Civil ex parte matters. Opposition  
28 papers for any electronically-filed ex parte application must be electronically filed by 8:00 p.m. the day before the hearing  
on the ex parte application, unless the party opposing the ex parte application is a self-represented litigant or otherwise  
exempt from mandatory electronic filing pursuant to the operative General Order re Mandatory Electronic Filing in Civil.

- 1 d. Family Ex Parte Proceedings
- 2 e. Hague Convention (International Kidnapping)
- 3 f. Probate Ex Parte Hearings
- 4 g. Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Conservatorship
- 5 h. Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Guardianship
- 6 i. Riese Hearings
- 7 j. Search Warrants
- 8 k. Arraignments
- 9 l. Criminal Preliminary Hearings
- 10 m. Criminal Ex Parte Hearings
- 11 n. Bail Bond and Cash Bail Processings
- 12 o. Bail Review
- 13 p. Criminal Mental Competency Hearings
- 14 q. Criminal Sentencing Proceedings
- 15 r. Criminal Post-Sentencing Proceedings
- 16 s. Grand Jury Indictments
- 17 t. Juvenile Ex Parte Orders
- 18 u. Emergency Orders Relating to the Health and Safety of a Child
- 19 v. Juvenile Restraining Orders
- 20 w. Juvenile Delinquency Detention Hearings and related case processing
- 21 x. Juvenile Dependency Detention Hearings and related case processing
- 22 y. Petitions for Writ Seeking Emergency Relief in Misdemeanor, Limited Civil and
- 23     Infractions
- 24 z. Emergency Writs Challenging COVID-19 Emergency Measures
- 25 aa. Writs of Habeas Corpus Challenging Medical Quarantines
- 26 bb. Emergency Protective Orders
- 27 cc. Proceedings under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (“LPS”) Act
- 28 dd. Judicial Commitments for Dangerous Persons based on Mental Health Conditions

- 1 ee. Parole and Post-Release Community Supervision Revocation Hearings  
2 ff. Juvenile Delinquency Adjudications and Dispositions, and related case processing  
3 gg. Juvenile Petitions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 388e (per  
4 Emergency Rule No. 6)  
5 hh. Expedited Petitions to Approve Compromise of Disputed Claim or Pending Action  
6 or Disposition of Proceeds of Judgment for Minor or Person with a Disability  
7 Pursuant to California Rule of Court 7.950.5, if no hearing is required  
8 ii. Writ proceedings under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 4800-4801 seeking  
9 release by persons judicially committed to a state hospital, development center, or  
10 other facility  
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- 12 2. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL OTHER MATTERS WILL BE**  
13 **CONTINUED BY THE COURT.** The parties shall receive further notice stating  
14 the specific time and date of the continuance in their cases.  
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16 3. The court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and  
17 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency  
18 proceedings must be released from custody to not more than **seven (7) days**,  
19 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire  
20 from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.  
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22 4. The court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and  
23 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency  
24 proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than **seven (7) days**,  
25 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire  
26 from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.  
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- 1           5.     The court extends the time periods provided in sections 632 and 637 of the Welfare  
2           and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending wardship  
3           proceedings and charged with a felony offense must be given a detention hearing or  
4           rehearing to not more than **seven (7) days**, applicable only to minors for whom the  
5           statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,  
6           inclusive.
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- 8           6.     The court extends the time period provided in section 334 of the Welfare and  
9           Institutions Code within which a hearing on a juvenile dependency petition must be  
10          held by not more than **fifteen (15) days**, applicable only to minors for whom the  
11          statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,  
12          inclusive.
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- 14          7.     The Court extends the time period provided in section 657 of the Welfare and  
15          Institutions Code within which a hearing on a wardship petition for a minor charged  
16          with a felony offense must be held by not more than **fifteen (15) days**, applicable  
17          only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from **April**  
18          **17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.
- 19
- 20          8.     Further, the court declares that from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive, be  
21          deemed a holiday/holidays for purposes of computing the time under Code of Civil  
22          Procedure section 116.330(a) (requires a small claims matter to be scheduled for  
23          hearing no earlier than 20 days but not more than 70 days from the date of the order  
24          directing the parties to appear at the hearing).
- 25
- 26          9.     All civil jury or non-jury trials, other than in unlawful detainer cases, set for trial  
27          from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, will be continued until a date after June 22,  
28          2020. The parties shall be notified of the continued trial date by the Court. All pre-

1 trial dates for trials that are continued pursuant to this paragraph are also continued  
2 consistent with the new trial date.

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4 10. In unlawful detainer cases, Emergency Rule 1(d) establishes that if the defendant  
5 has appeared in the action, the court may not set a trial date earlier than 60 days  
6 after a request for trial is made, unless the court finds that an earlier trial date is  
7 necessary to protect public health and safety. Under that same rule, any trial set in  
8 an unlawful detainer proceeding as of April 6, 2020 must be continued at least 60  
9 days from the initial date of trial.

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11 11. All traffic and infraction trials set for trial from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,  
12 inclusive, are continued. The parties shall receive notice of the date on which the  
13 continued trial shall be set.

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15 12. In all criminal cases, the court imposes a 90-day continuance of all status reports  
16 and progress reports, applicable only to defendants for whom a status report or  
17 progress report was due from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive. The  
18 court shall provide notice of when the new proceeding will be held.

19  
20 13. The continuance of any and all misdemeanor post-arraignment proceedings, in  
21 which the defendant is out of custody, applicable only to defendants for whom  
22 misdemeanor proceedings would otherwise be set from **April 17, 2020 to May 12,**  
23 **2020**, inclusive.

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25 14. Access to all Los Angeles County courthouses remains restricted at all times to  
26 judges, commissioners, court staff, co-lessees, Judicial Council staff and vendors,  
27 and authorized persons, which includes but is not limited to news reporters and  
28 news media representatives.

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- 15. Access to all essential court proceedings, including, but not limited to, arraignments, preliminary hearings, restraining orders or ex parte matters, remains limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses or authorized persons, which includes, but is not limited to news reporters and news media representatives.
  
- 16. The Executive Officer/Clerk of Court may provide telephonic and electronic assistance in these essential court proceedings to the greatest extent possible.
  
- 17. In furtherance of Executive Order N-33-20, paragraph 4, subpart (b), the Court orders all parties who use e-filing to accept electronic service, except in those circumstances when personal service is required by law or where any of the parties are self-represented.

**THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT  
UNTIL MAY 12, 2020 AND MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

DATED: April 14, 2020



*Kevin C. Brazile*  
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 KEVIN C. BRAZILE  
 Presiding Judge