



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MADERA**

COURT ADMINISTRATION

200 SOUTH G STREET
MADERA, CA 93637
(559) 416-5510

HON. DALE J. BLEA
PRESIDING JUDGE

HON. MICHAEL JURKOVICH
ASST PRESIDING JUDGE

ADRIENNE Y. CALIP
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AMY DOWNEY
ASST COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, March 23, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT

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Madera Superior Court's Continuing Plan to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19

2nd Amended Press Release Addressing:

1) *New General Order outlining the status of all Court proceedings/hearings.*

Court administration continues to carefully monitor the advice of public health officials regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an extended executive order that included the following order of the State Public Health Officer: "...all individuals living in the State of California stay at home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors....". This Order will remain in effect until further notice.

As a result, and effective immediately, the Presiding Judge of the Madera County Superior Court hereby issues the attached General Order, dated March 23, 2020, to balance the constitutional right of due process with the health and safety of court users and court staff.

To adhere to the directives of State and local public health officials, the following points and recommendations should be considered:

- Attorneys and litigants are strongly encouraged to file documents by facsimile in civil, probate and family law matters. All facsimile fees will be waived during the timeframe specified in the March 23, 2020 General Order.
- Attorneys and litigants are strongly encouraged to make court appearances telephonically via Court Call in all case types.
- Subject to the exercise of judicial discretion, the court will liberally grant hearing continuances upon request and will make best efforts to reduce calendar sizes to minimize health and safety risks.

- The court will summon jurors as needed to comply with state and federal law. Jury panel sizes will be reduced.
- The court will grant COVID-19 related deferrals to prospective jurors. These requests may be made by contacting the jury office at (559) 416-5570 or online at <http://jury.madera.courts.ca.gov>.
- Prospective jurors who report for service will be directed to available areas of the courthouse to maintain appropriate social distancing consistent with state public health recommendations.
- Trials currently underway will continue as scheduled, however, jurors may be asked to take health appropriate measures such as sitting outside the jury box to encourage appropriate social distancing.
- The court requests that persons appearing in the jury assembly rooms and courtrooms maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and other persons.
- The court requests no one who is ill with symptoms of COVID-19 appear at the courthouse, and that all persons appearing shall allow appropriate space between themselves and others when waiting in lines and that they not crowd elevators or other confined areas.
- Court users and visitors will be asked to wait in hallways, outside courtrooms or other designated areas to help maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Attorneys and litigants are reminded that it is your responsibility to keep your contact information, including addresses and telephone numbers, current with the court. This is our only way of contacting you to keep you informed of developments in this fluid and rapidly changing environment. Please regularly check hearing status at the following: <https://madera-prod-portal.ecourt.com/public-portal/?q=node/393>
- To reiterate: those who are ill, including jurors, potential jurors, attorneys, litigants, justice partners and court staff should remain at home. If you have a matter on calendar, you should contact the court and advise that you will not be appearing due to illness.

It is the stated mission of the Madera County Superior Court to ensure equal and fair access for all to our judicial system. We will endeavor to meet this mission as we confront COVID-19 during this unprecedented and challenging time in our court's history. While the above measures may result in inconvenience, our overriding responsibility is to the health and safety of jurors, litigants, courthouse visitors, attorneys, justice partners and court staff. These measures are designed to comply with the recommendations of public health officials regarding "best practices" for gatherings and social distancing. We will continue to work closely with public health officials and justice partners as this pandemic develops. Court administration appreciates your patience and understanding during these most challenging times.