



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

240 Church Street, Salinas, California 93901 - (831) 775-5400  
[www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov)

**JULIE R. CULVER**  
*Presiding Judge*  
2020 - 2022

**PAMELA L. BUTLER**  
*Asst. Presiding Judge*

**CHRIS RUHL**  
*Court Executive Officer*

**INTERIM ORDER RE MODIFICATION TO COURT OPERATIONS AND  
SERVICES (2020-02)**

This Court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19.
2. Effective March 18, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., the County of Monterey issued an order directing all individuals living in Monterey County to shelter at their place of residence except to provide or receive essential services or to engage in certain essential activities and work for essential businesses and governmental agencies. Court personnel are categorically exempt from the order and the subsequent order issued on April 3, 2020.
3. On March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an order mandating compliance with state and local public health officials to control the spread of COVID-19.
4. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an order directing all Californians to shelter in place at their place of residence with certain exceptions.
5. On March 30, 2020, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, and Chair of the Judicial Council, Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye issued a Statewide Emergency Order encouraging courts to make use of available technology, when possible, to conduct judicial proceedings and court operations remotely in order to protect the safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, and witnesses.
6. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council adopted Emergency Rules providing for the use of technology for remote appearances and allowing the courts to require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely.
7. The Superior Court has focused on providing the capability for conducting proceedings remotely, to limit the physical appearance of litigants or attorneys at the courthouse.
8. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19 threat has resulted in, or is expected to result in, significant interference with Superior Court services and proceedings.
9. Consonant with the above orders of the Governor, Monterey County, and the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey will continue to suspend functions in which the public may physically appear at the courthouse. Litigants and essential parties who cannot appear remotely will be allowed entrance into the courthouse as needed or required. All clerk's office functions will be closed to the public while the order remains in place.

### **COURTHOUSE ACCESS:**

1. Monterey Courthouse is closed to the public except for essential parties who will be required to appear remotely via phone or video.
2. Marina Courthouse is closed to the public except for essential parties who will be required to appear remotely via phone or video.
3. Salinas Courthouse is closed to the public except for essential parties for dependency, and felony and misdemeanor criminal matters in which essential parties will appear remotely via phone or video. Those essential parties who cannot appear remotely will be allowed entrance into the courthouse as needed or required.
4. Juvenile Courthouse on Natividad Road is closed to the public except for essential parties who will be required to appear remotely via phone or video for juvenile matters. Upon approval of the court and in exceptional circumstances, one parent may be physically present in the courtroom during these proceedings.
5. Access to the above courthouses is restricted to those persons required to appear in person for a court hearing or other essential parties. No other persons will be permitted entry without good cause.
6. Media will be allowed access upon approval by the court. Media requests for access should be submitted on Judicial Council form MC-500.
7. Individuals who are not essential parties may submit requests to appear in specific cases. Access will be allowed upon approval by the court.
8. Casual dress is encouraged so that clothing can be easily laundered.

### **ELECTRONIC FILING:**

No documents should be brought to the courthouses for filing. All filings should be submitted electronically using e-file.

Persons who are unable to file documents electronically may file by mail, or by using the drop box at any courthouse locations.

### **CRIMINAL MATTERS:**

For any matter that is continued, notices with new appearance dates will be mailed to out of custody individuals to notify those individuals of the new dates.

Consistent with the March 23, 2020 order of the Chief Justice, all jury trials are suspended and continued for a period of sixty (60) days calculated from the date for which the trial was set pursuant to statutory deadlines or extended. The Court may conduct such a trial at an earlier date, upon a finding of good cause shown or through the use of remote technology, when appropriate.

### **TEMPORARY BAIL/OWN RECOGNIZANCE (O.R.) RELEASE CHANGES:**

Pursuant to Emergency rule 4 adopted by the Judicial Council on April 6, 2020, a statewide Emergency Bail Schedule is in effect beginning April 13, 2020 until 90 days after the Governor declares the state of

emergency order related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed by the Judicial Council.

**JUVENILE MATTERS:**

With limited exceptions, all out of custody matters that cannot be handled through remote appearances and scheduled to be heard beginning March 18, 2020 will be continued to a new date that is 60 days from the date of the current hearing. Notices with new appearance dates will be mailed to out of custody minors who have hearings scheduled beginning March 18, 2020 to notify those minors of the new dates.

**TRAFFIC MATTERS:**

No traffic hearings or trials will be held during the court closure unless allowed or ordered by the court to proceed via remote video or call. All hearings that were scheduled to be heard beginning March 18, 2020 will be continued to new dates. Notices will be mailed to all parties at the address the court has on file.

Traffic payments will be accepted through the court's online portal. The court is considering written payment extension requests from those who are unable to pay using the electronic system.

**FAMILY MATTERS:**

Certain family law matters may be heard. All hearings will be conducted telephonically or via video conferencing and the courthouse will remain closed to the public. Most hearings that were scheduled to be heard beginning March 18, 2020 will be continued. Notices will be mailed to all parties at the address that the court has on file.

Emergency matters will be considered on a case by case basis.

**CIVIL MATTERS:**

A limited number of civil hearings are currently being heard. All hearings will be conducted telephonically. Hearings that were scheduled to be heard between March 18, 2020 and through the shelter in place order will be continued between 30 and 60 days from the date of the original hearing. Notices will be mailed to all parties.

Ex Parte matters will be conducted telephonically.

If all parties agree in writing, a request may be submitted for the Court to rule on a filed noticed motion without a hearing, for matters that were scheduled to be heard on the following Civil Calendars:

- Dept 13 Civil Law & Motion Monday at 9:05
- Dept 13 Civil Complex Law & Motion Tuesday at 8:30
- Dept 13 Civil Ex Parte Thursday at 10:00
- Dept 14 Civil Law & Motion Friday at 9:00
- Dept 15 Civil Law & Motion Friday at 9:00

All interested parties must waive the hearing in writing. After the agreement is processed, the Court will determine whether the filed motion is appropriate to rule on without a hearing.

**PROBATE MATTERS:**

All non-urgent and non-essential probate hearings set beginning March 18, 2020 will be rescheduled to a new date upon review by a judicial officer. Parties may continue to file documents electronically during this period of court closure.

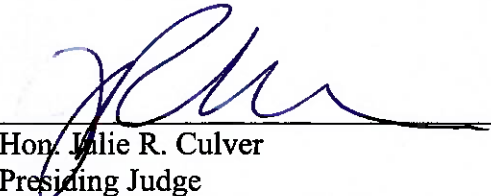
All temporary orders set to expire during the Court's closure have been extended by order of the court. Parties will receive a copy of the order by mail.

**UNLAWFUL DETAINERS/EVICTIONS**

Processing of unlawful detainer/eviction actions will continue consonant with Emergency Rule 1, adopted by the Judicial Council on April 6, 2020 and any local orders or ordinances enacted in response to the COVID-19 threat and the impact thereof.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated April 19, 2020

  
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Hon. Julie R. Culver  
Presiding Judge  
Monterey County Superior Court