

# Local Rules of Court

Effective July 1, 2013



**Monterey County Superior Court**

**240 Church Street**

**Salinas, California 93901**

**(831) 775-5400**

**[www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov)**



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**MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
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**CHAPTER 1**

**DISTRIBUTION OF BUSINESS**

**1.01 PRESIDING JUDGE**

The Presiding Judge shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Judges of the Superior Court and shall hold office at their pleasure. He or she shall perform the duties prescribed by the California Rules of Court and by these Rules. The Presiding Judge shall, when necessary, designate an acting Presiding Judge.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**1.02 CALENDAR ASSIGNMENTS**

In December of each year, the Presiding Judge, or his or her delegee, shall designate judicial assignments for the coming year in accordance with the California Rules of Court, Rule 10.603. This Local Rule is not intended to limit the ability of the Presiding Judge, in her or his sound discretion, to make judicial assignments whenever circumstances warrant.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**1.03 MASTER AND DIRECT CALENDAR**

- A. Master Calendar. All civil trials pending in the Superior Court of the County of Monterey shall be assigned under the master calendar system. The master calendar in Monterey will be presided over by the Supervising Supervising Civil Judge.
- B. Direct Calendar. All misdemeanor and felony trials shall be assigned under the Direct Calendar system. Any changes to the assigned calendar will be presided over by the Presiding Judge in Salinas.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; (Amended effective January 1, 2004)*

**1.04 JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Current Judicial Assignments can be viewed on the Court's website at [https://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/General\\_Information/Judges\\_Assignments.aspx](https://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/General_Information/Judges_Assignments.aspx)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective October 12, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective July 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective July 1, 2008; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

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**1.05 COURT HOLIDAYS**

A list of current Court Holidays can be viewed on the Court's website at [https://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/General\\_Information/Court\\_Holidays.aspx](https://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/General_Information/Court_Holidays.aspx)

A holiday occurring on a Saturday is observed on the preceding Friday and a holiday occurring on a Sunday, is observed on the following Monday, pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.11.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective July 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011, Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**1.06 JUDICIAL LEAVE DAY DEFINED**

For purposes of recording judicial leave under CRC 10.603(c)(2)(H), leave shall be reported and recorded in half day increments. Whenever a judge will be unavailable to handle court calendars and other court business for an entire morning session (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) or an entire afternoon session (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.), leave will be recorded against that judge's accrual for each such half day absence. For leave totaling seven hours or more in a single day, the Presiding Judge shall have the discretion to direct such leave to be recorded as either one half day or a full day.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

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**CHAPTER 2**

**MONTEREY DIVISION**

**2.01 DAILY MONTEREY SESSION**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**2.02 VENUE - MONTEREY DIVISION**

The following actions or proceedings shall be commenced in the Monterey Division:

A. All proceedings for probate of an estate, termination of a life estate or joint tenancy, guardianship, and conservatorship;

- B. All civil proceedings, including,
- Family Law Proceedings;
  - Civil Domestic Violence Proceedings;
  - Harassment Proceedings;
  - Department of Child Support Services;
  - Paternity Proceedings;
  - Adoption Proceedings;
  - Small Claims Proceedings; and
  - Vehicle Forfeiture Proceedings.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2008)*

**2.03 TRANSFER TO OR FROM MONTEREY SESSIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended (renumbered) effective January 1, 2001; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**2.04 COURT CALENDAR**

The Supervising Civil Judge at the Monterey Division shall set and supervise calendars for all matters pending in said Court. All such calendars shall, under such supervision, be maintained by the Clerk.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended (renumbered) effective January 1, 2001)*

**2.05 COURT DROP BOX**

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2009; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

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**CHAPTER 3**

**JUVENILE DEPARTMENT**

**DEPENDENCY AND DELINQUENCY**

**3.01 FILING OF JUVENILE PETITIONS**

The deadline for filing W&I 602 Petitions with the Clerk's Office shall be no later than 2:00 pm on the day prior to the first/detention appearance hearing.

The deadline for filing W&I 601 Petitions with the Clerk's Office shall be no later than 2:00 pm on the Friday prior to Tuesday's hearings.

The deadline for filing W&I 300 jurisdiction and disposition reports with the Clerk's Office shall be no later than 2:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the hearing.

The deadline for filing W&I 300 Petitions with the Clerk's Office shall be no later than 2:00 pm on the day prior to the first detention hearing.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.02 ADDING CASES TO JUVENILE CALENDAR**

Any application or memorandum for setting a juvenile matter on calendar shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office no later than two court days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the requested hearing date. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the judge hearing the case.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009)*

**3.03 DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING JUVENILE JUDGES**

The Presiding Judge may designate all judges of the Superior Court as judges of the Juvenile Court. All business of the Juvenile Delinquency court shall be conducted by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Delinquency Department. All business of the Juvenile Dependency Department shall be conducted by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Department. If the Presiding Judge of either the Juvenile Delinquency or Juvenile Dependency Department is not available, the Presiding Judge of the Court shall designate another judge to manage the assignments.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2004)*

**3.04 SESSIONS**

**A. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

Juvenile Delinquency court sessions are held in the Superior Court Juvenile Division located at the Probation Department Building, 1422 Natividad Road, Salinas, California 93906.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002)*

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**B. JUVENILE DEPENDENCY**

Juvenile Dependency court sessions are held at the Salinas Courthouse, 240 Church Street, Salinas, California 93901.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002)*

**3.05 FILING OF PAPERS**

All papers are to be filed and maintained in the Clerk of the Court Office at the courthouse in Salinas.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**DEPENDENCY**

**3.06 TRIAL BRIEF REQUIREMENT**

In all contested juvenile dependency matters, parties must file trial briefs at least one (1) week prior to the hearing or per the briefing schedule set by the Court. Any exceptions to this rule must be with prior approval of the Court.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2010)*

**3.07 NOTIFICATION OF CANCELLED CONTESTED HEARING**

In all dependency matters, the moving party must notify the Court and all parties if the hearing is not going forward as a contested hearing three (3) court days prior to the hearing.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2010)*

**3.08 CALENDAR**

*(Amended effective July 1, 2002; Amended effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective January 2, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Renumbered from 3.06 to 3.08 effective January 1, 2010; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

**APPENDIX - CALENDAR, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

*(Revised 1/1/10; Repealed effective 1/1/11)*

**3.09 RELEASE OF JUVENILE CASE INFORMATION**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Re-numbered from 3.07 to 3.09 effective January 1, 2010; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.10 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

The Superior Court may appoint child advocates to represent and report to the court on the interests of dependent children. In order to qualify for appointment the child advocate must be trained by and function under the auspices of a Court Appointed Special Advocate Program,

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formed and operating under the guidelines established by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. (W&I 100 -110; CRC Rule 5.655)

The advocate program shall report regularly to the Presiding Judge of the Courts and Judges of the Juvenile Dependency and Juvenile Delinquency Courts with evidence that it is operating under the guidelines established by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association and the California State Guidelines for child advocates.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2000; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Re-numbered from 3.08 to 3.10 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.11 CHILD ADVOCATES**

**A. ADVOCATES' FUNCTIONS**

Advocates serve at the pleasure of the Court having jurisdiction over the proceeding in which the advocate has been appointed. In general, an advocate's functions are as follows:

1. to support the child throughout the Court proceedings;
2. to establish a relationship with the child to better understand his or her particular needs and desires;
3. to communicate the child's needs and desires to the Court in written reports and recommendations;
4. to identify and explore potential resources which will facilitate early family reunification or alternative permanency planning;
5. to provide continuous attention to the child's situation to ensure that the Court's plans for the child are being implemented;
6. to the fullest extent possible, to communicate and coordinate efforts with the case manager (probation officer/social worker);
7. to the fullest extent possible, to communicate and coordinate efforts with the child's attorneys; and
8. to investigate the interests of the child in other judicial or administrative proceedings outside Juvenile Court; to report to the Juvenile Court concerning same; and, with the approval of the Court, offer his/her services on behalf of the child to such other courts or tribunals.
9. to be present in court for all hearings when the case is present in court.

**B. CASA REPORTS**

In any case in which the court has ordered the appointment of an advocate, such advocate shall file reports regarding their findings and recommendations for the child with the court at least two days before each of the following hearings: six-month review; twelve-month review; eighteen-month review; selection and implementation hearing (366.26 hearing); and post-permanency

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planning reviews. Copies of the report are to be provided by CASA to all parties or their counsel at least 2 court days before the scheduled hearing. (California Rules of Court, rule 5.655(k)(5)).

**C. SWORN OFFICER OF THE COURT**

An advocate is an officer of the Court and is bound by these rules. Each advocate shall be sworn in by a Superior Court Judge/Referee/Commissioner before beginning his/her duties, and shall subscribe to the written oath set forth in the Appendix attached hereto.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.09 to 3.11 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.12 APPOINTMENT OF ADVOCATE – SPECIFIC DUTIES**

The Court shall, in its initial order of appointment, and thereafter subsequent order as appropriate, specifically delineate the advocate's duties in each case, which may include independent investigation of the circumstances of the case, interviewing and observing the child and other appropriate individuals, reviewing appropriate records and reports, consideration of visitation right for the child's grandparents and other relatives, and reporting back directly to the

Court as indicated. If no specific duties are outlined by Court order, the advocate shall discharge his/her obligation to the child and the Court in accordance with the general duties set forth in 3.11 above.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.10 to 3.12 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

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**APPENDIX**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

**OATH**

Monterey County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that in serving as an officer of the Court, I will follow the rules of Court and will maintain fairness, impartiality and integrity; that I am committing to a life-time of preserving the privacy of those for whom I am appointed and will only divulge confidential information to those entitled to receive it; and that I will always act for the best interest of the child(ren) I am assigned to help.

I will truly and faithfully perform the duties of CASA according to the law; I will provide written reports of my findings and recommendations to the Court and will appear at all necessary hearings. I will explain Court proceedings to the child(ren) and inform the Court if services are not available or being used.

I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monterey County CASA Volunteer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, CASA of Monterey County

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**3.13 RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO ADVOCATE**

**A. TO ACCOMPLISH APPOINTMENT**

To accomplish the appointment of an advocate, the Judge/Referee/ Commissioner making the appointment shall sign an order granting the advocate the authority to review specific relevant documents and interview parties involved in the case, as well as other persons having significant information relating to the child, to the same extent as any other officer appointed to investigate proceedings on behalf of the Court.

**B. ACCESS TO RECORDS**

An advocate shall have the same legal right to records relating to the child he/she is appointed to represent as any case manager (social worker or probation officer) with regard to records pertaining to the child held by any agency, school, organization, division or department of the State, physician, surgeon, nurse, other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health provider or law enforcement agency. The advocate shall present his/her identification as a court-appointed advocate to any such record holder in support of his/her request for access to specific records. No consent from the parent or guardian is necessary for the advocate to have access to any records relating to the child.

**C. REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE**

An advocate is a mandated child abuse reporter with respect to the case to which he/she is appointed.

**D. COMMUNICATION**

There shall be ongoing, regular communication concerning the child's best interests, current status, and significant case developments, maintained among the advocate, case manager, child's attorney, attorneys for parents, relatives, foster parents and any therapist for the child.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered from 3.11 to 3.13 effective January 1, 2010)*

**3.14 RIGHT TO TIMELY NOTICE**

In any motion concerning the child for whom the advocate has been appointed, the moving party shall provide the advocate timely notice.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered from 3.12 to 3.14 effective January 1, 2010)*

**3.15 CALENDAR PRIORITY**

In light of the fact that advocates are rendering a volunteer service to children and the Court, matters on which they appear should be granted priority on the Court's calendar, whenever possible.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered from 3.13 to 3.15 effective January 1, 2010)*

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**3.16 VISITATION THROUGHOUT DEPENDENCY**

An advocate shall visit the child regularly until the child is secure in a permanent placement. Thereafter, the advocate shall monitor the case as appropriate until dependency is dismissed.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered from 3.14 to 3.16 effective January 1, 2010.)*

**3.17 FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY**

Should the Juvenile Court dismiss dependency and create family law orders pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 362.4, the advocate's appointment may be continued in the family law proceeding, in which case the Juvenile Court order shall set forth the nature, extent and duration of the advocate's duties in the family law proceeding.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered from 3.15 to 3.17 effective January 1, 2010)*

**3.18 RIGHT TO APPEAR**

An advocate shall have the right to be present and be heard at all Court hearings, and shall not be subject to exclusion by virtue of the fact that he/she may be called to testify at some point in the proceedings. An advocate shall not be deemed to be a "party," as described in Title 3 of Part II of the Code of Civil Procedure. However, the Court, in its discretion, shall have the authority to grant the advocate *amicus curiae* status, which includes the right to appear with counsel.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Renumbered from 3.16 to 3.18 effective January 1, 2010)*

**APPENDIX: APPLICATION FOR JUVENILE COURT RECORDS**

*(Appendix: Application for Juvenile Court Records, effective 1/1/08; Repealed effective 1/1/11)*

**3.19 REPRESENTATION IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS  
CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT, RULE 5.660**

**A. ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN**

Appointment of counsel is required for a child who is the subject of a petition under Welfare and Institutions Code §300, and is unrepresented by counsel, unless the court finds the child would not benefit from the appointment of counsel.

1. In order to find that a child would not benefit from the appointment of counsel, the court must find all of the following:
  - a. The child understands the nature of the proceedings;
  - b. The child is able to communicate and advocate effectively with the court, other counsel, other parties, including social workers, and other professionals involved in the case; and
  - c. Under the circumstances of the case, the child would not gain any benefit by being represented by counsel.

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2. If the court finds that the child would not benefit from representation of counsel, the court must make a finding on the record as to each criteria in (a) and state the reasons for each finding.
3. If the court finds that the child would not benefit from representation by counsel, the court must appoint a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the child, to serve as guardian ad litem as required in Welfare and Institutions Code §326.5.
4. GENERAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

Every party in a dependency proceeding who is represented by an attorney is entitled to competent counsel. "Competent counsel" means an attorney who is a member of good standing of the State Bar of California, who has participated in training in the law of juvenile dependency, and who demonstrates adequate forensic skills, knowledge and comprehension of the statutory scheme, the purposes and goals of dependency proceedings, the specific statutes, rules of court, and cases relevant to such proceedings, and procedures for filing petitions for extraordinary writs.

All attorneys appearing in juvenile dependency proceedings must meet the minimum standards of competence set forth in these rules. These rules are applicable to attorneys representing public agencies, attorneys employed by public agencies, attorneys appointed by the Court to represent any party in a juvenile dependency proceeding and attorneys who are privately retained to represent a party to a juvenile dependency proceeding.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.17 to 3.19 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.20 SCREENING FOR COMPETENCY**

- A. Effective July 1, 1996, all attorneys who represent parties in Juvenile Court proceeding shall meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience set forth in these rules. Any attorney appearing in a dependency matter for the first time shall complete and submit a Certification of Competency to the Court within 10 days of his or her first appearance in a dependency matter.
- B. Attorneys who meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience as set forth in Rule 3.21, as demonstrated by the information contained in the Certification of Competency submitted to the Court, shall be deemed competent to practice before the Juvenile Court in dependency cases except as provided in subdivision (B) of such rule.
- C. Any attorney appearing before the court in a dependency case who does not meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience must notify the court to that effect at his/her initial appearance. The clerk of the court must notify the represented party by first-class mail to the party's last known address and the attorney at least 10 days before the hearing date of the following: (1) a hearing date, time, and location; (2) that at that hearing the court will consider the issue of whether to relieve counsel for failing to complete the requisite training and to provide a Certification of Competency; and (3) that failure to appear for the hearing will be deemed a waiver of any objection and acquiescence to the relief of appointed counsel. At that hearing the court must relieve such appointed counsel and must appoint certified counsel for the party whose attorney failed to complete the required training. If the attorney relieved is a member of a public agency, the agency has the right to

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transfer the case to a certified attorney within that agency. In the case of retained counsel, the court must notify the party that his or her counsel has failed to meet the minimum standards required by these rules. The determination whether to waive certification or obtain substitute private counsel is solely within the discretion of the party so notified.

- D. Upon submission of a Certification of Competency (which demonstrates that the attorney has met the minimum standards for training and/or experience), the Court may determine, based on conduct or performance of counsel before the Court in a dependency case within the six month period prior to the submission of the certification to the Court, that a particular attorney does not meet minimum competency standards. In such case, the Court shall proceed as set forth in Rule 3.21(D).
- E. In the case of an attorney who maintains his or her principal office outside of this county, proof of certification by the Juvenile Court of the California county in which the attorney maintains an office shall be sufficient evidence of competence to appear in a juvenile proceeding in this county.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.18 to 3.20 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.21 MINIMUM STANDARDS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

- A. Effective July 1, 2001, only those attorneys who have completed a minimum of eight hours of training or education in the area of juvenile dependency, or who have sufficient recent experience in dependency proceedings in which the attorney has demonstrated competency, may be appointed to represent parties. Each attorney appearing in a dependency matter before the Juvenile Court shall not seek certification of competency and shall not be certified by the Court as competent until the attorney has completed the following minimum requirements:
  - 1. Participated in at least eight hours of training or education in juvenile dependency law which in addition to a summary of dependency law and related statutes and cases, must include information on child development, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, domestic violence, family reunification and preservation and reasonable efforts, or,
  - 2. At least six months of recent experience in dependency proceedings in which the attorney has demonstrated competence in the attorney's representation of his or her clients in said proceedings. In determining whether the attorney has demonstrated competence, the Court shall consider whether the attorney's performance has substantially complied with the requirements of these rules.
- B. In order to retain his or her certification to practice before the Juvenile Court, each attorney who has been previously certified by the Court shall submit a new Certificate of Competency to the Court on or before June 30th of the third year after the year in which the attorney is first certified and then every third year thereafter. The attorney shall attach to the renewal Certification of Competency evidence that he or she has completed at least eight hours of continuing training or education directly related to dependency proceedings since the attorney was last certified. Evidence of completion of the required number of hours of training or education may include a copy of a certificate of attendance issued by a California MCLE provider; a certificate of attendance issued by a professional organization which provides training and/or education for its members, whether or not it is a MCLE provider; a copy of the training or educational program schedule together with evidence of attendance

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at such program; or such other documentation as may reasonably be considered to demonstrate the attorney's attendance at such program. Attendance at a court sponsored or approved program will also fulfill this requirement.

- C. The attorney's continuing training or education shall be in the areas set forth in subdivision (1)(A) of this rule, or in other areas related to juvenile dependency practice including, but not limited to, special education, mental health, health care, immigration issues, the rules of evidence, adoption practice and parentage issues, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, state and federal public assistance programs, the Indian Child Welfare Act, client interviewing and counseling techniques, case investigation and settlement negotiations, mediation, basic motion practice and the rules of civil procedure.
- D. When a certified attorney fails to submit evidence that he or she has completed at least the minimum required training and education to the Court by the due date, the Court shall notify the attorney that he or she will be decertified. That attorney shall have 20 days from the date of the mailing of the notice to submit evidence of his or her completion of the required training or education. If the attorney fails to submit the required evidence or fails to complete the required minimum hours of continuing training or education, the Court shall order, except in cases where a party is represented by retained counsel, that certified counsel be substituted for the attorney who fails to complete the required training. In the case of retained counsel, the Court shall notify the party that his or her counsel has failed to meet the minimum standards required by these rules. The determination whether to waive certification or obtain substitute private counsel shall be solely within the discretion of the party so notified.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.19 to 3.21 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.22 STANDARDS OF REPRESENTATION**

All attorneys appearing in dependency proceedings shall meet the following minimum standard of representation:

- A. Attorneys or their agents are expected to meet regularly with clients, including clients who are children, regardless of the age of the child or the child's ability to communicate verbally, to contact social workers and other professionals associated with the client's case, to work with other counsel and the court to resolve disputed aspects of a case without contested hearing, and to adhere to the mandated timelines. The attorney for the child must have sufficient contact with the child to establish and maintain an adequate and professional attorney-client relationship. The attorney for the child is not required to assume the responsibilities of a social worker and is not expected to perform services for the child that are unrelated to the child's legal representation. (Adopted effective July 1, 2002)
- B. The attorney shall thoroughly and completely investigate the accuracy of the allegations of the petition or other moving papers and the Court reports filed in support thereof. This shall include conducting a comprehensive interview with the client to ascertain his or her knowledge of and/or involvement in the matters alleged or reported: contacting social workers and other professionals associated with the case to ascertain if the allegations and/or reports are supported by accurate evidence and reliable information; consulting with and, if necessary, seeking the appointment of experts to advise the attorney or the Court with respect to matters which are beyond the expertise of the attorney and/or the Court; and

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obtaining such other facts, evidence or information as may be necessary to effectively present the client's position to the Court.

- C. The attorney shall determine the client's interests and the position the client wishes to take in the matter. Except in those cases in which the client's whereabouts is unknown, this shall include a comprehensive interview with the client. If the client is a minor child who is placed out of home, in addition to interviewing the child, the attorney shall also interview with the child's caretaker. The attorney or the attorney's agent shall make at least one visit to the child at the child's placement prior to the jurisdiction hearing. Thereafter, the attorney or the attorney's agent should make at least one visit to the child at the child's placement prior to each review hearing.
- D. The attorney shall advise the client of the possible courses of action and of the risks and benefits of each. This shall include advising the client of the risks and benefits of resolving disputed matters without the necessity for a hearing and of the necessity for adhering to court mandated time limits.
- E. The attorney shall vigorously represent the client within applicable legal and ethical boundaries. This shall include the duty to work cooperatively with other counsel and the Court, to explore ways to resolve disputed matters without hearing if it is possible to do so in a way which is consistent with the client's interests, and to comply with local rules and procedures as well as with statutorily mandated timelines.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.20 to 3.22 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.23 PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING AND RESOLVING COMPLAINTS**

- A. Any party to a Juvenile Court proceeding may lodge a written complaint with the Court concerning the performance of his or her appointed attorney in a Juvenile Court proceeding. In the case of a complaint concerning the performance of an attorney appointed to represent a minor, the complaint may be lodged on the child's behalf by the social worker, a caretaker relative or a foster parent.
- B. Each appointed attorney must provide written notice to his or her adult client of the procedure for lodging complaints with the Court concerning the performance of an appointed attorney. The notice shall be given to the client within 10 days of the attorney's appointment to represent that client. Evidence that a copy of said notice was given or mailed to the client shall be provided to the Court within 10 days of a request therefore from the Court. In the case of a minor client, the notice shall be mailed or given to the current caretaker of the child. If the minor is 12 years of age or older, a copy of the notice shall also be sent or given to the minor.
- C. The Court shall review a complaint within 10 days of receipt. If the Court determines that the complaint presents reasonable cause to believe that the attorney may have failed to act competently or has violated local rules, the Court shall notify the attorney in question of the complaint, shall provide the attorney with a copy of the complaint and shall give the attorney twenty days from the date of the notice to respond to the complaint in writing.
- D. After a response has been filed by the attorney or the time for submission of a response has passed, the Court shall review the complaint and the response if any to determine whether the attorney acted contrary to local rules or has acted incompetently. The Court may ask

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the complainant or the attorney for additional information prior to making a determination on the complaint.

- E. If, after reviewing the complaint, the response and any additional information, the Court finds that the attorney acted improperly or contrary to the rules or policies of the Court, the Court may reprove the attorney, either privately or publicly, and may, in cases of willful or egregious violations of local rules, issue such reasonable monetary sanctions against the attorney as the Court may deem appropriate.
- F. If, after reviewing the complaint, the response and any additional information, the Court finds that the attorney acted incompetently, the Court may order that the attorney practice under the supervision of a mentor attorney for a period of at least six months, that the attorney complete a specified number of hours of training or education in the area in which the attorney was found to have been incompetent, or both. In cases in which the attorney's conduct caused actual harm to his or her client, the Court shall order that competent counsel be substituted for the attorney found to have been incompetent and may, in the Court's discretion, refer the matter to the State Bar of California for further action.
- G. The Court shall notify the attorney and the complaining party in writing of its determination of the complaint. If the Court makes a finding under subdivisions (E) or (F), the attorney shall have 10 days after the date of the notice to request a hearing before the Court concerning the Court's proposed action. If the attorney does not request a hearing within that period of time, the Court's determination shall become final.
- H. If the attorney requests a hearing, the attorney shall serve a copy of the request on the complaining party. The hearing shall be held as soon as practicable after the attorney's request therefore, but in no case shall it be held more than 30 days after it has been requested except by stipulation of the parties. The complainant and the attorney shall each be given at least 10 days notice of the hearing. The hearing may be held in chambers. The hearing shall not be open to the public. The Court may designate a commissioner, referee, judge pro tempore, or any qualified member of the bar to act as hearing officer.
- I. At the hearing, each party shall have the right to present arguments to the hearing officer with respect to the court's determination. Such arguments shall be based on the evidence before the Court at the time the determination was made. No new evidence may be presented unless the party offering such evidence can show that it was not reasonably available to the party at the time that the Court made its initial determination with respect to the complaint. Within 10 days after the hearing, the Court or hearing officer shall issue a written determination upholding, reversing or amending the Court's original determination. The hearing decision shall be the final determination of the Court with respect to the matter. A copy of the hearing decision shall be provided to both the complainant and the attorney.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.21 to 3.23 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.24 COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM**

If the court makes the findings as outlined in 3.19(A), and does not appoint an attorney to represent a child, the court must appoint a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) as guardian ad litem for the child.

- A. The required training of a CASA volunteers is set forth in California Rules of Court 5.655.

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- B. The caseload of a CASA volunteer acting as a guardian ad litem must be limited to 10 cases. A case may include siblings, absent a conflict.
- C. CASA volunteers must not assume the responsibilities of attorneys for children.
- D. The appointment of an attorney to represent a child does not prevent the appointment of a CASA volunteer for that child.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.22 to 3.24 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**3.25 PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING THE COURT OF THE INTERESTS OF A DEPENDENT CHILD**

- A. At any time following the filing of a petition under Welfare and Institutions Code §300 and until juvenile court jurisdiction is terminated, any interested person may advise the Court of information regarding an interest or right of the child which needs to be protected or pursued in other judicial or administrative forums. If the attorney for the child, or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) acting as a guardian ad litem learns of any such interest or right, the attorney or CASA must notify the Court immediately and seek instructions from the court as to any appropriate procedures to follow.
- B. Notice to the Court may be given by the filing of Judicial Council forms *Juvenile Dependency Petition (Version One) (JV-100)* or *Request To Change Court Order (JV-180)* or by the filing of a declaration. The person giving notice shall set forth the nature of the interest or right which needs to be protected or pursued, the name and address, if known, of the administrative agency or judicial forum in which the right or interest may be affected and the nature of the proceedings being contemplated or conducted there.
- C. If the person filing the notice is the counsel for the minor, the motion shall state what action on the child's behalf the attorney believes is necessary, whether the attorney is willing or able to pursue the matter on the child's behalf, whether the association of counsel specializing in practice before that agency or court may be necessary or appropriate, whether the appointment of a guardian *ad litem* may be necessary to initiate or pursue the proposed action, whether joinder of an administrative agency to the Juvenile Court proceedings pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 362 may be appropriate or necessary to protect or pursue the child's interests and whether further investigation may be necessary. If the person filing the notice is not the attorney for the child, a copy of the notice shall be served on the attorney for the child, or, if the child is unrepresented, the notice shall so state.
- D. The Court may set a hearing on the notice if the Court deems it necessary in order to determine the nature of the child's right or interest or whether said interest should be protected or pursued.
- E. If the Court determines that further action on behalf of the child is required to protect or pursue any interests or rights, the Court must appoint an attorney for the child if the child is not already represented by counsel, and do one or all of the following:
  - 1. Refer the matter to the appropriate agency for further investigation, and require a report to the court within a reasonable time;

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2. Authorize and direct the child's attorney to initiate and pursue appropriate action;
3. Appoint a guardian *ad litem* for the child, who may be the CASA already appointed as guardian *ad litem* or a person who will act only if required for to initiate and pursue appropriate action ; or
4. Take any other action the Court may deem necessary or appropriate to protect or pursue the welfare, interests and rights of the child.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Renumbered from 3.23 to 3.25 effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

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APPENDIX**

**For Court Use Only.**

/ \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
JUVENILE DIVISION**

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPETENCY OF COUNSEL C.R.C. 5.660**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an attorney at law licensed to practice in the State of California. I hereby certify that I meet the minimum standards for practice before a Juvenile Court set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.660, and Monterey County Superior Court local rule, and I have completed the minimum requirements for training, education and/or experience as set forth below.

Training and Education: (Attach copies of MCLE certificates or other documentation of attendance.)

Court Title	Date Completed	Hours / Provider
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Juvenile Dependency Experience: (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case #	# Contested Hearings	Date of Last Appearance	Party Represented
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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**3.26 DISCOVERY IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS**

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Renumbered from 3.24 to 3.26 effective January 1, 2010; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

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**CHAPTER 4**

**PROBATE DEPARTMENT**

**4.00 PREAMBLE**

The following rules should be adhered to with respect to the majority of matters presented to the court. In exceptional circumstances and for good cause shown, the court will consider individual exceptions to these rules where not prohibited from doing so by statutory or case law.

**ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION**

**4.01 PROBATE JUDGE**

The Probate Judge shall be designated by the Presiding Judge.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**4.02 OTHER PROBATE LAW AND COURT RULES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998, Repealed July 1, 2013)*

**4.03 SIGNATURE OF JUDGE**

Any order or document on a calendared matter requiring the signature of the judge must first be submitted to a Research Attorney for examination.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**4.04 CONSOLIDATION OF RELATED CASES**

Whenever it appears that two or more petitions with different numbers have been filed with reference to the same proceeding, the court will, on its own motion at the first hearing, consolidate all of the matters with the file bearing the lowest number. The file bearing the lower or lowest number will be referred to as the controlling file. All documents filed after consolidation must bear the case number of the controlling file. Upon consolidation, the clerk must transfer all documents in consolidated files to the controlling file with the exception of a copy of the order of consolidation.

*(Rule 4.04 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended January 1, 2002; Renumbered as 4.05 and New Rule 4.04 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.05 MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN PROBATE ORDERS**

Complete in Themselves. Orders shall contain the name of the judge presiding, the date of hearing and the department. All pages of the Order shall include the case name and number in a footer or header. All orders or decrees in probate matters must be complete in themselves. They shall set forth, with the same particularity required of judgments in civil matters, all matters actually passed on by the Court, the relief granted, the names of any persons affected, the descriptions of any property affected and the amounts of any money affected. Probate orders should be written so their general effect may be determined

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without reference to the petition on which they are based. Orders may reference attached exhibits where use of the exhibits is meant to safeguard against typographical errors, for example where lengthy property descriptions are involved. Exhibits must reference the case name and number. The preferred practice is to incorporate the Exhibit into the Order and provide for a judicial signature element at the end of the Exhibit.

- A. Orders Settling Accounts. In orders settling accounts it is proper to use general language approving the account, the report and the acts reflected therein. It is not sufficient in any order to recite merely that the petition as presented is granted. Orders settling accounts must also contain a statement as to fees approved, fees waived, and the balance of the estate on hand, specifically noting the amount of cash included.
  
- B. Whenever an Order is submitted to the Court, it will be accompanied by two complete, legible copies, along with copies of all documents attached to the proposed Order.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Rule 4.04 Renumbered as 4.05 and Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended January 1, 2010, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.06 APPLICATIONS FOR EX PARTE ORDERS**

Procedures for ex parte applications in probate, trust, conservatorship and guardianship matters shall be conducted in the same manner as those in general civil cases, per Local Rule 7.11.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 4.05 Renumbered as 4.06 effective January 1, 2009; Repealed effective January 1, 2011; Amended July 1, 2012, Amended July 1, 2013)*

**4.07 TELEPHONE CALLS TO RESEARCH ATTORNEY**

The Research Attorneys are not required to provide answers to general legal and/or hypothetical questions. General legal questions or questions involving hypothetical fact situations, will be discussed at the discretion of the Research Attorney. Such discussions may not be cited as authority for actions subsequently taken. Research Attorneys should not be considered an alternative to basic legal research.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.06 Renumbered as 4.07 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.08 PROBATE CALENDAR**

Probate matters are heard in Monterey at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. Please see the Court website at [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov) or call the Court at (831) 647-5800, for available dates. Matters shall be calendared at least 30 days prior to the hearing date. The petitioner shall include an appropriate date and time on for hearing on the documents submitted.

Normally probate matters are heard on the documents and declarations submitted. If testimony is required or the hearing will require more than ten (10) minutes, arrangements should be made for a special setting. Special settings are set by way of properly calendared motions.

If it shall appear, when a matter is called, that it will require more than ten (10) minutes, the Court may reset the matter to another time and/or day.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Rule 4.07 Renumbered as 4.08 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.09 SUBMITTED CALENDAR**

Certain probate, guardianship, and conservatorship proceedings may be submitted to the Probate Court without the necessity of a Court appearance by the petitioner in pro per or by the attorney for the petitioner. To determine if an appearance is required, view "Probate Notes" on the Probate section of the Court's website at <http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/Probate/>

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Rule 4.08 Renumbered as 4.09 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended July 1, 2013)*

**4.10 PROPOSED ORDERS—FORM AND CONTENT**

- A. In all conservatorships where Conservator is represented by counsel, counsel must approve the proposed Order as to form and content.
- B. Orders must be separate documents. Orders may not be included in the body of a Petition.
- C. Orders may not include a blank judicial signature page following the text on an Order.  
Use footers on the signature page which would include the case name and case number.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 4.09 Renumbered as 4.10 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Repealed 4.10 (A)-(C) and renumbered (D)-(F) to (A)-(C) effective July 1, 2013.*

**PLEADINGS**

**4.11 WITHDRAWAL OF COUNSEL OF RECORD**

The following provisions apply to attorneys appointed by the court to serve as appointed counsel and guardians ad litem and also attorneys for guardians, conservators, personal representatives in estates, and trustees of trusts under court supervision.

- A. Counsel wishing to withdraw from a probate proceeding as counsel of record must file and serve a Motion to Withdraw in accordance with the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure section 284 and California Rules of Court, rule 3.1362.
- B. The filing in the case file of a substitution in pro per without prior court approval will not effectively relieve the counsel of record. Such counsel will only be relieved by substitution of another counsel or by court order upon showing that the person wishing to act in pro per is not precluded from doing so by virtue of his or her capacity in the pending proceeding. See, for example, Ziegler v. Nickel (1998) 64 Cal. App. 4th 545. Court approval may be obtained by noticed motion.
- C. Motions for withdrawal where a bond has been filed by a surety must be accompanied by proof of service of the Notice required by Probate Code section 1213.

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*(Rule 4.11 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered as 4.13 effective January 1, 2009; New Rule 4.11 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.12 CAPTION OF PETITIONS AND PLEADINGS**

With the exception of Judicial Council Forms, all separately filed Pleadings must include in the caption, the date, time, and place of hearing. Separately filed pleadings include later filed Declarations responsive to inquiries made by the Court in advance of the Hearing date.

The Calendar Department of the Superior Court Clerk's Office is not required to read the body of the petition or the prayer to determine the adequacy of the pleading. The caption of petitions must be all-inclusive as to the relief sought in the petition so that the matter may be properly calendared and posted, and filing fees, if any, determined. If any part of the estate is to be distributed to a trust, the caption must so indicate.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Rule 4.10 Renumbered as 4.12 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.13 PLEADINGS MUST BE SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVE, TRUSTEE, GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.11 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered as 4.13 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.14 AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998 (Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.12 Renumbered as 4.14 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.15 FILING DEADLINE**

A. When statutes provide that papers may be filed within three (3) calendar days of the hearing, service on opposing counsel must be by personal delivery (or by FAX when permitted by Rule 2.306 of the California Rules of Court).

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 4.13 Renumbered as 4.15 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Repealed (A)-(B) and renumbered (C) to (A) effective July 1, 2013)*

**STIPULATIONS**

**4.16 CONTINUANCES**

Matters may not be continued by the petitioning party or by stipulation of counsel without authorization from the Court which should be sought through the Court's Research Attorney if set for hearing within five (5) working days.

Matters which have been set by the Court shall not be continued at any time without authorization from the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.14 Renumbered as 4.16 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**NOTICES, PUBLICATION AND SERVICE OF CITATIONS**

**4.17 NOTICES GENERALLY**

Notice requirements with respect to particular petitions or matters are set forth elsewhere in the Probate Code and California Rules of Court. Counsel must consult the specific rules relating to such petitions or matters and the relevant statutes to assure proper notice is given.

When notice of hearing is required – whether by personal service, mailing or publication – petitioner must give such notice and file the necessary proof of service. The court clerk does not have this responsibility.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 4.15 Renumbered as 4.17 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.18 ADDITIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.16 Renumbered as 4.18 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

**4.19 NOTICE RE: SPECIAL LETTERS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 4.17 Renumbered as 4.19 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.20 ALLEGATIONS IN PETITIONS RE: HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES**

- A. Nominated Trustee(s). The nominated trustee(s) of a trust created by a will must be listed as a devisee or legatee. If the trustee is also the estate representative or no trustee has been appointed, the individual trust beneficiaries must also be set forth and served with notice of hearing as set forth in Probate Code section 1208.
- B. Post-deceased Heirs, Devisees or Legatees. If an heir, devisee or legatee dies after the decedent and a personal representative has been appointed for the heir, devisee or legatee, the heir, devisee or legatee should be listed in care of the name and address of the personal representative. If no personal representative has been appointed, the heir, devisee or legatee should be listed as deceased and notice should be given to the heirs, legatees, or devisee of the post deceased heir. In either case, the date of death should be included.
- C. Contingent Heirs. All contingent heirs and legatees must be listed in the petition and are entitled to receive notice of the hearing.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001) Rule 4.18 Renumbered as 4.20 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.21 SUBSEQUENT PETITIONS FOR PROBATE**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998 Rule 4.19 Renumbered as 4.21 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

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**4.22 NOTICE BY MAIL - BY WHOM GIVEN**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.20 Renumbered as 4.22 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.23 HEIRS WITHOUT KNOWN ADDRESSES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 4.21 Renumbered as 4.23 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.24 CONTINUANCE TO PERMIT FILING OF WILL CONTEST**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.22 Renumbered as 4.24 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.25 PETITIONER SEEKING APPOINTMENT AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

The Court requires all Petitioners, seeking appointment as a personal representative, to file the Confidential Statement of Birth Date and Driver's License Number pursuant to Probate Code Section 8404 (b).

*(Rule 4.25 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Renumbered as 4.28 effective January 1, 2009; New Rule 4.25 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.26 BONDING OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 4.23 Renumbered as 4.26 and Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010, Repealed 4.26(A) – (H) effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.27 BOND FOR SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.24 Renumbered as 4.27 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.28 ISSUANCE OF LETTERS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 4.25 Renumbered as 4.28 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.29 DECLINATIONS AND CONSENTS TO SERVE**

A. Declination of Named Executor. It is insufficient merely to allege that the person named in the decedent's will as executor thereof declines to act as such. A written declination to act, verified under penalty of perjury (Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5) by such person, must be filed with the Court.

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- B. Two or More Executors. If a petition for letters to be issued to two or more executors is filed, and one or more of the named executors is not a petitioner, each non-petitioning executor must file a consent to act, verified under penalty of perjury.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.26 Renumbered as 4.29 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.30 MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIVES**

When multiple personal representatives are appointed, Letters shall be issued jointly to all of them, and not separately to any of them, unless specifically permitted by Court order.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.27 Renumbered as 4.30 effective January 1, 2009)*

**PETITIONS TO SET ASIDE SPOUSAL PROPERTY**

**4.31 SPOUSAL PROPERTY PETITIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1 1998; Rule 4.28 Renumbered as 4.31 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.32 PROVISION RE: SURVIVORSHIP**

If a spouse's right to take under a will is conditioned on survival for a specified period of time, no property will be set aside or confirmed to the spouse until the expiration of the survivorship period.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.29 Renumbered as 4.32 effective January 1, 2009)*

**INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION**

**4.33 DISTRIBUTION UNDER ACT**

- A. Schedule of Claims. In any petition for distribution, a schedule of claims must be included as part of the petition, showing the name of the claimant, amount claimed, date presented, date allowed, the amount allowed and if paid, the date of payment. As to any claims rejected, the date of rejection must be set forth, and the original of the notice of rejection with affidavit of mailing to the creditor must be on file. The notice of allowance should not be filed, unless the creditor is the personal representative and/or counsel for the estate.
- B. Preliminary Distribution. Although a preliminary distribution may be made without an accounting, sufficient facts must be set forth in the petition to allow the Court to ascertain that the estate is solvent. If the Court has questions concerning the propriety of a preliminary distribution, the Court may require an accounting.
- C. Description of Independent Acts. In any petition for distribution, all independent acts taken without prior Court approval shall be set forth and described, and an allegation made that the 15-day notice of proposed action was duly served and that no objections were received or that notice was not required. The original "Notice of Proposed Action", with attached affidavit of mailing shall be on file with the Court. If certain acts have been properly reported in a prior petition for distribution, and notices filed, they need not be reported again.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.30 Renumbered as 4.33 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**PETITIONS FOR INSTRUCTIONS GENERALLY**

**4.34 LIMITATIONS ON USE OF PETITIONS FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.31 Renumbered as 4.34 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.35 PETITIONS TO DETERMINE TITLE TO REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO PROBATE CODE SECTION 9860**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.32 Renumbered as 4.35 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**CREDITORS' CLAIMS**

**4.36 FILING, APPROVAL, REJECTION AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 4.33 Renumbered as 4.36 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.37 PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON FUNERAL AND INTERMENT CLAIMS**

When accrued interest has been paid in connection with the delayed payment of claims for the reasonable cost of funeral expenses, a specific allegation must be made in the report accompanying the account in which credit for such payment has been taken. The allegation shall set forth reasons for any delay in making payment. The Court will not allow credit for payment of interest where the delay in payment of the claims is not justified by the facts set forth.

Interest on funeral and interment creditors' claims will only be allowed as provided by Health and Safety Code section 7101, which provides that interest is allowed commencing 60 days after the date of death.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.33 Renumbered as 4.36 effective January 1, 2009)*

**SALES**

**4.38 PUBLISHED NOTICE FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

- A. Required Notice. Unless a will specifically grants an executor, as distinguished from an administrator with will annexed, the authority to sell without notice (Probate Code section 10303), a publication of notice of sale of real property is required.
- B. Content of Notice. The notice of sale of real property must substantially comply in its content with the following example:

“NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, subject to confirmation of this Court on (insert date, time and Department), or thereafter within the time allowed by law, the undersigned as (administrator or Executor) of the Estate of the above named decedent, will sell at private sale to the highest net bidder, on the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned, all right,

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title, and interest that the estate has acquired in addition to that of the decedent at the time of death, in the real property located in Monterey County, California, as follows:

(Insert Legal Description of Property here.)

APN:

This property is commonly referred to as (insert address here) and includes (insert any fixture included in the price).

The sale is subject to current taxes, covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, right of way and easements of record, with any encumbrances of record to be satisfied from the purchase price.

The property is to be sold on an “as is” basis, except for title.

An offer on the property in the total amount of (insert amount of bid) has been accepted by the (insert Administrator or Executor) and a REPORT OF SALE AND PETITION FOR ORDER CONFIRMING SALE OF REAL PROPERTY has been filed in these proceedings, which Report and Petition have been set for hearing on (insert hearing date) and notice made to all interested parties. THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO INVITE BIDS OVER THE ACCEPTED OFFER, in accordance with the provisions of California Probate Code section 10311. By statute, the initial overbid must be in the amount of (insert First Overbid amount).

Overbids are invited for this property and must be in writing and presented on (insert Court confirmation hearing date) at (insert hearing time) in Department (insert department no.) of the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Monterey, 1200 Aguajito Rd., Monterey, California. Bid forms may be obtained from the attorney for the (Administrator or Executor) at the address shown hereinabove or at the Superior Court on the morning of the hearing.

- The property will be sold on the following terms (insert all applicable terms).
- The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to accept any bids.

- C. Time. If notice of sale is published, any sale must be in accordance with its terms. If a petition for confirmation of sale is filed alleging the sale took place prior to the date stated in the published notice, the sale cannot be confirmed and new notice of sale must be published. Pursuant to Probate Code section 10308, any petition for confirmation of sale must allege that the sale was made within thirty (30) days prior to the date on which the petition was filed. The Court requires that the specific date of sale be alleged in the return of sale and petition for its confirmation. If a petition for confirmation of sale of real property is filed prior to the date of sale specified in the notice, the Court cannot announce the sale on the date set for hearing, but must deny confirmation without prejudice to a new sale after another notice has been given as prescribed by law.
- D. Terms of Sale. The published notice of sale of real property constitutes a solicitation for offers. The terms of the solicitation must be substantially similar to the terms of the accepted offer that is the subject of the Report of Sale and Petition for Order Confirming Sale of Real Property. Published terms of the solicitation cannot be more onerous than the terms of the accepted offer.

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- E. Defect in Notice. If an executor publishes a notice of sale of real property and proceeds with that sale and later a technical defect appears, this defect cannot be cured by the executor's power of sale given in the will. The publication constitutes an election by the executor to sell by means of publication of notice.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Rule 4.35 Renumbered as 4.38 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.39 SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

- A. Contract for Sale. The Real Estate Purchase Agreement or other contract of sale shall be attached to the Report of Sale and Petition for Order Confirming Sale of Real Property.
- B. Appearances of Counsel. In petitions for confirmation of sales of real estate and for sales of personal property where bidding is authorized, the Court will not proceed with the confirmation of the sale in the absence of the attorney, except in those cases where the personal representative, guardian or conservator is present and requests that the sale proceed.
- C. Sale Contingencies. Except in exceptional circumstances, all contingencies contained within the Real Estate Purchase Agreement, with the exception of Court Confirmation itself, shall be removed prior to the date of the confirmation hearing. Before the sale is confirmed, counsel shall state for the record that this requirement has been satisfied. Where exceptional circumstances exist to justify a waiver of this requirement, counsel will obtain ex parte authorization to proceed, prior to filing the petition.
- D. Continuances. Sale confirmations will be continued only under the most exceptional circumstances. A motion for continuance must be made in open Court.
- E. Probate Code §10398, requires that notice be given "to the purchasers named in the petition..."

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 4.36 Renumbered as 4.39 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.40 EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

Where full independent powers have not been granted, Probate Code section 10150 permits a representative to grant an exclusive listing for a period of not to exceed ninety (90) days after obtaining the permission of Court. To obtain such permission, the representative must file an ex parte petition setting forth, in detail, the property to be sold, the broker to be employed, the terms of the exclusive listing agreement and the factual reasons why such agreement is necessary and advantageous to the estate. A bare statement of "necessity and advantage" will not suffice.

In all cases, the ex parte order shall provide that a reasonable broker's commission, if any, will be determined by the Court at the time of confirmation of sale.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.37 Renumbered as 4.40 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**4.41 BOND ON SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Petitions for confirmation of sale of real estate shall set forth the amount of bond in force at the time of sale and the amount of property in the estate which should be covered by bond (as provided in Probate Code Section 8482) at the close of escrow. If no additional bond is required, or if bond is waived, that fact must be alleged. A secured promissory note taken as part of the consideration is personal property and an additional bond must be fixed in the amount of such note plus whatever cash is paid. If additional bond is ordered, it must be filed prior to obtaining the Court's signature on the order confirming sale.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.38 Renumbered as 4.41 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.42 BROKER'S COMMISSIONS - GENERAL RULE**

- A. The order confirming sale must show the total commissions allowed and any allocation agreed upon between brokers.
- B. Upon confirmation of the sale of improved real property, the Court will not allow a broker's commission in excess of six percent (6%), unless justified by exceptional circumstances. A commission of up to ten percent (10%) may be allowed for the sale of raw land.
- C. A commission exceeding the normal schedule will be allowed only under the most unusual circumstances. Whenever possible, the written agreement of the affected beneficiaries should be obtained.
- D. A broker bidding for his own account is not entitled to receive or share in a commission. (Estate of Toy (1977) 72 Cal.App.3d 392)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.39 Renumbered as 4.42 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.43 DISPUTES ABOUT BROKERS' COMMISSIONS**

Normally disputes concerning broker's commissions will be referred to the appropriate Board of Realtors for arbitration.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.40 Renumbered as 4.43 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.44 TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Commissions on sales of tangible personal property will be allowed only to individuals holding a broker's license authorizing them to deal in the type of property involved. A commission will be allowed on the original bid only when the commission is requested in the return of sale. When there is an overbid in Court, a commission may be allowed to the successful broker, and, if the original bid was subject to a commission, apportionment between the brokers will be made according to the same rules as prescribed for real estate sales. The amount of the commission

is within the court's discretion and will not ordinarily exceed a total of 10% of the sale price.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.44 Renumbered as 4.47 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**4.45 SALE OF SPECIFICALLY DEvised OR BEQUEATHED PROPERTY**

On a sale of specifically devised or bequeathed real or personal property, 15 days notice of time and place of hearing of the return of sale must be given to the devisee or legatee, unless his/her consent to such sale is filed with the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.42 Renumbered as 4.45 effective January 1, 2009)*

**INVENTORY, ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS**

**4.46 "INVENTORY AND APPRAISAL" TO SHOW SUFFICIENCY OF BOND**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Rule 4.43 Renumbered as 4.46 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed July 1, 2013)*

**4.47 PROPERTY TAX CERTIFICATION TO BE FILED WITH "INVENTORY APPRAISAL"**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.44 Renumbered as 4.47 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed July 1, 2013)*

**4.48 REQUIRED FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

A. Format of Accounts. All accounts filed in probate proceedings, including guardianship, conservatorship and trust accounts, shall contain a summary or recapitulation showing:

- Period encompassed by the accounting.
- Amount of Appraisal, if first account. If subsequent account, amount chargeable from prior account.
- Amount of receipts, excluding capital items.
- Gains on sales or other disposition of assets (if any).
- Amount of disbursements, excluding capital items.
- Losses on sales or other disposition of assets (if any).
- Amount of property on hand.

A suggested form of summary is as follows:

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT**

The petitioner is chargeable, and is entitled to the credits, respectively, as set forth in this summary of account. The attached supporting schedules are incorporated by this reference.

**CHARGES**

Amount of Inventory and Appraisal (or, if not the first account: Amount chargeable from Prior Account)  
Receipts during Account Period (Schedule "A")  
Gains on Sales (Schedule "B")

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
=====

Total Charges \$.....

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**CREDITS**

Disbursements during account Period (Schedule "C")	\$ _____
Losses on Sales (Schedule "D")	\$ _____
Other credits: Property distributed; homestead of other property set apart (Schedule "E")	\$ _____
Property on Hand (Schedule "F")	\$ _____
	=====
Total Credits	\$ _____

- B. Support of Summary. The summary should be supported by detailed schedules. The schedules of receipts and disbursements should show the nature or purpose of each item and date thereof. The schedule of property on hand should describe each item and indicate the appraised value.
  
- C. Distribution to Trustee. When part of the estate is to be distributed to a trustee, and accumulated income is to be paid over by the trustee to the trust beneficiaries, the form of account should permit the Court to determine if the personal representative has properly allocated receipts and disbursements between principal and income.
  
- D. Income and Expenses Attributable To Real Property. In estates where real property is specifically devised, the accounting or a schedule submitted therewith should set forth both the income received from said real property and any expenses allocated thereto (such as taxes, insurance, maintenance). (See Estate of McSweeney (1954) 123 Cal.App.2d 787)
  
- E. Waiver of Accounting. A detailed accounting may be waived by petition when all interested persons consent, are adult and competent. All waivers must be filed with the Court or endorsed on the petition. The effect of the waiver is to make it unnecessary to provide financial details, with the exception of a detailed listing of the property to be distributed and its' value for distribution purposes. All other matters normally reported upon at the time an accounting is filed must be presented in the petition.
  
- F. Account Waiver by Administrator/Trustee. The Court will ordinarily not approve a waiver of accounting where the Estate's Administrator is Trustee of a Trust which is the sole or a primary beneficiary of the estate.
  
- G. Description of Bonds in Accounts. In any account, other than a final account, where bond has been posted, there shall be included a separate paragraph setting forth the total bond(s) posted, the date posted, the appraised value of personal property on hand plus the estimated annual income from real and personal property and a statement of any additional bond required.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 4.45 Renumbered as 4.48 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.49 ALLEGATION RE: CLAIMS**

Prior to filing the interim or final account, counsel are advised to review the Court file to insure that all creditors' claims which may have been filed have been addressed in the interim or final account. It is not sufficient in reports accompanying accounts or in reports where an accounting is waived, to allege merely that all claims have been paid. The claims filed must be listed, showing the claimant, the amount claimed, and the disposition of each claim. If any claim has

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been rejected, the date of service of notice of rejection of claim and whether suit on the claim has been filed must be stated.

Known creditors, contacted pursuant to Probate Code sections 9050 to 9054, inclusive, must be listed, whether or not such creditors filed a claim against the estate. Notices of Administration required by Probate Code section 9050 must be on file with the Court prior to, or at the time of, the hearing on the petition for final distribution.

The foregoing allegations must appear in the final report even though they may have appeared in whole or in part in prior reports.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.46 Renumbered as 4.49 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.50 FEES MUST BE STATED EVEN THOUGH ACCOUNT WAIVED**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 4.47 Renumbered as 4.50 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.51 PROPERTY TO BE DISTRIBUTED MUST BE LISTED**

The petition for distribution must list and describe in detail all property to be distributed, individual values and the total value. The description must include any cash on hand and must indicate whether or not promissory notes are secured or unsecured. If any note is secured, the security interest must be described in detail. The petition must include a complete legal description of any real property to be distributed.

The description must be set forth either in the body of the petition or in the prayer, or by a schedule in the accounting incorporated in the petition by reference. Description by reference to the inventory is not acceptable.

The petition for distribution must also list and describe in detail each beneficiary's specific share of all property to be distributed.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 4.48 Renumbered as 4.51 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.52 ACCOUNT - DEBTS PAID WITHOUT VERIFIED CLAIMS - VOUCHERS**

Even if a claim has not been filed, the Court may, under Probate Code section 9154, approve the payment of a debt if the accounting shows that such debt was allowed during the time within which such claim could have been filed and the estate is solvent. Such approval, however, is discretionary with the Court and must be justified by allegations in a verified petition.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.49 Renumbered as 4.52 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.53 ALLEGATION RE CHARACTER OF PROPERTY**

In all cases a petition for distribution must contain an allegation as to the character of the property, whether separate or community.

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If some portion of the assets consists of community property, the allegation must show whether the interest included is only the decedent's one-half interest in the community property or 100 percent (100%) of the community property of both spouses. In the absence of an election under Probate Code section 13502 by the surviving spouse to include in the estate his/her one-half interest in the community property, the Court has no jurisdiction to order distribution of such interest.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.50 Renumbered as 4.53 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.54 DESCRIPTION OF DISTRIBUTEES**

The names and present addresses of all persons who are affected by the petition, and whether they are adults or minors, must appear in the petition for final distribution.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.51 Renumbered as 4.54 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.55 COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATE CODE SECTION 9202**

Before the Court will authorize distribution there must be a showing of compliance with Probate Code section 9202 or a showing that the notice thereunder is not required because neither decedent nor decedent's spouse received Medi-Cal, or that no claim can be made by the Department of Health Services because decedent died before June 28, 1981, was under age 65, or was survived by a spouse, minor child or disabled child. In showing compliance with Probate Code section 9202, petitioner must give the Director of the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board notice of the decedent's death if there is reason to believe that "an heir is confined in a prison or facility under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or confined in any county or city jail, road camp, industrial farm, or other local correctional facility." Additionally, the Franchise Tax Board must be given notice of the administration of the estate within 90 days after the date on which letters are first issued to a general personal representative.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.52 Renumbered as 4.55 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**4.56 THE DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION**

The decree of distribution shall be drawn so that the full extent of the decree may be determined without reference to the petition on which it is based or to other documents, such as the will. The decree shall contain:

- A. The distribution of property by named beneficiary, with a detailed list describing the property to be distributed to each beneficiary. Description by reference to the inventory is not acceptable. For distribution by reference to an attached exhibit, see Local Rule 4.05.
- B. For real property, the legal description and street address, if any, shall be stated.
- C. If an intestate decedent who survived his/her spouse leaves no issue, the applicability of Probate Code sections 6402 and 6402.5 must be alleged and the necessary tracing must be carried out as far as is possible.
- D. Decrees of Distribution Establishing Testamentary Trusts. Upon distribution the Court must determine whether a valid trust has been created by a will, determine the scope and terms

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of the trust, and order distribution of the trust property to the trustee. Since the decree of distribution supersedes the Will (Estate of Callnon (1979) 70 Cal. 2d 150); (In re Lewis (1969) 271 Cal.App. 2d 371), the terms of the trust shall be incorporated in the decree in such a manner as to give effect to the conditions existing at the time distribution is ordered. The pertinent provisions shall be set forth in the present tense and in the third person instead of quoting the will verbatim.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.53 Renumbered as 4.56 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.57 RECEIPTS ON DISTRIBUTION**

A receipt for property received by a distributee shall be signed by him/her personally. The Court will not accept a receipt signed by an attorney-in-fact, except where there is a pre-existing durable power of attorney and a copy of the durable power of attorney is provided.

A receipt for property received by a distributee shall be specifically itemized, giving the distribution value of each asset and the total value of all property received. (Local Rules 4.56(A) and 4.52)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.54 Renumbered as 4.57 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**TAXES - SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**4.58 INCOME TAX CERTIFICATE**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.55 Renumbered as 4.58 effective January 1, 2009)*  
*(Repealed effective July 1, 2010)*

**ATTORNEY FEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSIONS IN DECEDENTS' ESTATES**

**4.59 FORMAT FOR REQUESTING FEES**

An application for fees will not be considered unless the caption and prayer of the petition and the notice of hearing contain a reference to that application.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.56 Renumbered as 4.59 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.60 FEES TAKEN IN ADVANCE**

There is no authority for the payment of fees in decedents estates in advance of a Court order authorizing the same.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.57 Renumbered as 4.60 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.61 ALLOWANCE ON ACCOUNT OF STATUTORY FEES**

Allowance on account of statutory fees will be granted by the Court only in proportion to the work actually completed, and ordinarily no more than fifty percent (50%) of the statutory fees will be allowed prior to the approval of the final account and the decree of final distribution. Until the

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final account is settled no part of the statutory fees will be allowed without a detailed description of services performed and remaining to be performed. An unsubstantiated claim that, e.g., fifty percent (50%) of the requested work has been performed is not sufficient. Until the final account is settled, the Court is unable to fix the total amount of statutory fees and any allowance made prior to that time must be low enough to avoid the possibility of overpayment.

The Court will allow a preliminary award of statutory fees only for good cause shown and ordinarily only in conjunction with a preliminary distribution of the estate.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.58 Renumbered as 4.61 effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.62 APPORTIONMENT OF FEES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.59 Renumbered as 4.62 effective January 1, 2009, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.63 BASIS FOR STATUTORY FEES MUST BE STATED EVEN THOUGH ACCOUNT WAIVED**

In accounts or in petitions for distribution accompanied by a waiver of accounting, the report must state the amount of statutory fees payable and set forth the basis for the calculation. (Local Rule 4.50)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 4.60 Renumbered as 4.63 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.64 DECLARATION RE: SEPARATE ATTORNEY'S AND EXECUTOR'S FEES**

- A. Fees may be awarded to a law firm of which a partner or shareholder is the personal representative only if an agreement not to participate in each other's compensation is first on file in the probate proceeding. Reference shall be made to its filing date in the final account.
- B. Whenever the attorneys representing an estate and the executor of the estate are members of the same law firm and each is requesting a separate fee but there is no specific provision in the will indicating the decedent/testator was informed of the possibility of separate fees, in addition to the declaration not to participate in fees, a declaration must be filed stating: 1) whether the decedent/testator was informed that there would be a separate fee for each in such situations; 2) whether the decedent/testator consented to that arrangement; and 3) what relationship existed between the attorney and the decedent/testator which would justify the receipt of separate fees as executor and as attorney in such a situation. The declaration must be served on all interested parties.
- C. When counsel for the personal representative, or another member of counsel's law firm, is retained by the estate to represent it with respect to a civil matter, the personal representative shall first seek Court approval of the fee arrangement or demonstrate to the Court in the form of a declaration that the fee arrangement was reviewed by independent counsel for the estate.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.61 Renumbered as 4.64 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**4.65 FORMAT FOR REQUESTING EXTRAORDINARY FEES FOR ATTORNEYS AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DECEDENTS' ESTATES**

- A. Compensation for Extraordinary Services. An application for compensation for extraordinary services will not be considered unless the caption and the prayer of the petition and the notice of hearing contain a reference to that application. All requests must comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 7.702, including the mandatory statement referenced therein.
- B. Discretion of Court. The award of extraordinary fees and commissions is within the discretion of the Court. Ordinarily extraordinary fees will not be awarded without a proper showing that statutory fees have been exhausted. (See Estate of Walker (1963) 221 Cal.App.2d 792.)
- C. Standards. Counsel and Personal representatives are directed to CRC, Rule 7.703. The Court will look at the reasonableness and benefit to the interested parties in determining whether and what amounts of extraordinary fees will be allowed. The court does not interpret the Probate Code or Court Rules as allowing payment for attorney's fees for services rendered by any non-attorney staff except for paralegals who demonstrate the qualifications referenced in Local Rule 4.66. Fees will not be allowed for matters which are overhead, secretarial in nature, or do not require special legal skills. Ordinarily, no more than 1 hour will be allowed for a Court appearance in nonlitigated matters. Costs for items such as office supplies will not be allowed.
- D. Customary compensation limits. In reviewing requests for extraordinary fees, the Court considers the amounts historically and customarily allowed in the community. For attorneys' fees in nonlitigated matters, the Court has customarily allowed \$200 to \$300 per hour. The maximum the Court presently will allow is \$300 per hour. For paralegals meeting the standards referenced in Local Rule 4.66, the Court has customarily allowed \$85 to \$125 per hour. The maximum the Court will allow is \$125 per hour. For private professional fiduciaries, the maximum ordinarily allowed is \$85 per hour for services rendered by the fiduciary, and \$45 per hour for staff. All requests must clearly indicate who has performed the services for which extraordinary compensation is being requested. In the event that a fiduciary is performing services requiring special training and skills (e.g., a CPA preparing tax returns or performing an audit), the Court will consider a higher hourly rate on a case by case basis. The Court will in its discretion review these [rates](#) from time to time and make such adjustments as it appears to the Court appropriate. Counsel should not assume that the Court will automatically allow the maximum rates set forth herein. Litigated matters will be considered on a case by case basis.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.62 Renumbered as 4.65 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.66 USE OF PARALEGALS**

Pursuant to Probate Code sections 10811(b), 2642(a), 8547(d), and 10953(d), the use of paralegals to perform services of an extraordinary nature is permitted. No fees for such services will be allowed unless performed by a paralegal meeting the qualifications specified in Business and Professions Code section 6450 and California Rules of Court, Rule 7.702(e), and the petition contains the information set forth in Rule 7.702(e). The request for such fees must contain an itemized statement of services rendered by the paralegal.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.63 Renumbered as 4.66 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

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**4.67 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSIONS**

Local Rules 4.61, 4.63, 4.64 and 4.65, are also applicable to requests for commissions for personal representatives in decedents' estates.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.64 Renumbered as 4.67 and Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**TRUSTS**

**4.68 TRUSTEES' ACCOUNTS**

Accounts filed by trustees under authority of Probate Code section 16062 should conform to the requirements set out in Local Rule 4.48 as well as Probate Code sections 1060 through 1064. If the trust is a testamentary trust, the starting balance of the first account must conform to the trustee's receipt filed on distribution of the assets of the decedent's estate.

Except for trusts that are subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Superior Court (see Probate Code sections 17300-17354), the Court will order an accounting and report by a trustee only when an account is requested by someone beneficially interested in the trust. (Probate Code section 17200(b)(5).)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 4.65 Renumbered as 4.68 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.69 BENEFICIARIES TO BE LISTED IN PETITION**

All petitions involving a testamentary trust or an inter vivos trust under Probate Code section 17200 must set forth the names and last known address of all beneficiaries, whether their interests are vested or contingent – that is, all persons in being who shall or may participate in the income or corpus of the trust.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.66 Renumbered as 4.69 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**TRUSTEE AND TRUSTEE'S ATTORNEY FEES**

**4.70 TRUSTEE FEES**

Requests for trustee fees must be supported in the petition or in a separate verified declaration stating the nature, necessity, success, cost in time, detail of services performed, the value of the services believed to warrant additional fees, and the amount requested. Mere recitation of time spent, without more, is not adequate. In making this determination the criteria set forth in Estate of Nazro (1971), 15 Cal.App.3d 218 shall be applied. The Court has discretion to require further justification for all trustee fees. Although the Court will, as a general guideline, allow a fee of 3/4 of 1% of fair market value per annum, Court approval must nevertheless first be obtained in all instances where the amount of compensation is not expressly authorized in the trust instrument. Mere recitation of the 3/4 of 1% guideline is not sufficient. Trustees who base their requests for compensation on this guideline shall include a second column in the accounting which shall indicate the fair market value of each trust asset next to the carry value. Fiduciaries who seek court approval of trustee fees are referred to Local Rules 4.65 and 5.27 for the amounts customarily and historically allowed by the Court.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.67 Renumbered as 4.70 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**4.71 ALLOWANCE OF ATTORNEY FEES FOR TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION**

Attorney fees for trustee representation will be allowed according to the work actually performed. In general, requests for attorney fees must be supported in a petition or in a separate verified declaration stating the specific nature, benefit, time expended, detail of services performed and the amount requested. Mere recitation of time spent, without more, is not adequate. Time sheets may be appended as additional support. In any situation in which approval of fees by the court is required, counsel are referred to Local Rule 4.65 for fees customarily and historically allowed.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.68 Renumbered as 4.71 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**4.72 USE OF POST OFFICE BOX NUMBERS**

Any documents which require the address of the fiduciary in any probate, conservatorship or guardianship matter must provide a complete street address. The use of P.O. Box numbers or letters is not acceptable.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.69 Renumbered as 4.72, effective January 1, 2009)*

**4.73 TRUSTEE'S BOND**

Court Appointed Fiduciaries. When the Court has appointed a fiduciary, the amount of the bond shall include "a reasonable amount for the cost of recovery to collect on the bond, including attorney's fees and costs" as set forth in the California Rules of Court, Rule 7.207.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2010)*

**MEDIATION PROGRAM**

**4.74 PROBATE MEDIATION PROGRAM RULES**

*(See rule 6.12, Court-Directed Mediation Program Rules.) (Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 4.70 Renumbered to 4.73 effective January 1, 2009; Rule 4.73 Renumbered to 4.74 effective January 1, 2010)*

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**CHAPTER 5**

**CONSERVATORSHIPS AND GUARDIANSHIPS**

**5.00 PREAMBLE**

The following rules should be adhered to with respect to the majority of matters presented to the court. In exceptional circumstances and for good cause shown, the court will consider individual exceptions to these rules where not prohibited from doing so by statutory or case law. If a certain law or provision is not addressed in this chapter of the Local Rules of Court, please review the Probate or Civil chapters of the Local Rules of Court or the California Rules of Court for information pertinent to the law or provision.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**5.01 FILINGS**

- A. With the exception of Judicial Council Forms, all separately filed Pleadings must include in the caption, the date, time, and place of hearing.
- B. In all case types, Petitioners must provide information related to their personal residential address, home telephone number, work address, work telephone number, and cell phone number, if any. This information may be filed as a confidential document.
- C. A copy of all documents filed in a conservatorship proceeding must be served on the Court Investigator at the Monterey Division of the Superior Court located at 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. Service may not be made to the Court investigator via facsimile without prior authorization from the Investigator's assistant. Service on the Investigator shall be reflected on the appropriate Proof of Service or Notice of Hearing filed with the Court.
- D. In accordance with the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Civil Codes sections 1798-1798.97), all files that contain any "personal information" identifying or describing an individual by means of those which include, but are not limited to, social security number, home address or telephone number, financial matters, maiden name, medical or employment records, driver's license, or statements made by, or attributed to, the individual, shall be filed with the Court as confidential documents. The information contained in these files shall only be disclosed where and how the Information Practices Act of 1977 permits.
- E. The filing of original bank statements is required where necessary. The submitting party may, however, file photocopies of the original bank statements if the submitting party verifies that the photocopies are true and correct copies of the original bank statements and have been personally reviewed by counsel. The last four (4) digits of all bank accounts shall be redacted.
- F. The Court Investigator fee for the initial filing and the first annual court review must be paid at the time the petition is filed in the following instances: Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator, Conservator's Accountings when heard in conjunction with a Court Review, and/or Petition to Change Conservatee's Residence. If the Conservator believes the fees should be deferred or waived due to hardship, the subject petition shall include a request for deferral or waiver and shall set forth facts to establish a hardship. The Court will not hear any petitions for the

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payment of fees to either the conservator or the attorney for the conservator unless all Court Investigator Fees have been paid, deferred or waived.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Rule 5.27(f) Renumbered and Relettered as 5.01(f), Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**5.02 EX PARTE PETITIONS**

- A. The following petitions, powers, orders or authority require a noticed hearing and will not be granted ex parte. If an urgency or emergency exists, the remedy is to request an order shortening time with service on the Court Investigator.
1. Powers relating to medical consent under Probate Code sections 2355, 2357 and 3200.
  2. Independent Powers under Probate Code sections 2590 and 2591 relating to real property or transfers of personal property.
  3. Petitions authorizing sales, transfers or encumbrances of personal property in an amount exceeding \$5,000 in the aggregate annually. (Probate Code section 2545(b))
  4. Proposed action to exercise Substituted Judgment. (Probate Code section 2580)
  5. Authorization for gifts from excess income. (Probate Code section 2423.)
  6. Authorization to purchase real property.
  7. Petitions for fees.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective January 1, 2011; Amended (Repealed Subd. (a-b)(c7), renumbered c to a; 8 to 7) effective July 1, 2012)*

**APPOINTMENTS**

**PETITIONS FOR CONSERVATORSHIP**

**5.03 PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROBATE CONSERVATOR OF THE PERSON ONLY**

For a Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator of the Person only, Petitioner shall by Declaration indicate why a conservatorship of the estate is not necessary.

- A. Where it is stated that a conservatorship of the estate is not necessary because the proposed conservatee has a trust:
1. Petitioner shall identify any and all trusts, including any and all amendments that may or may not have been revoked by the subsequent documents;
  2. The proposed conservatee's interest in the trust;

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3. The name of the trustee and/or successor trustee;
4. An estimated value of the size of the trust;
5. An estimated value of any income the proposed conservatee may be entitled to, and;
6. An estimated value of principal distributions, if any, the proposed conservatee may be entitled to;
  - a. Where it is stated that a conservatorship of the estate is not necessary because the proposed conservatee has execute powers of attorney, Petitioner shall provide:
    - i. The identity of the named agent;
    - ii. An estimate of the value of the assets subject to the power of attorney; and,
    - iii. An estimate of the income of the proposed conservatee and its source;
  - b. The Petitioner shall attach copies of any and all documents identified, including any revoked instruments and/or state why copies are not available.

*(Rule 5.03 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Renumbered as 5.04, 5.05, 5.06, 5.07, and 5.08 effective January 1, 2009; New Rule 5.03 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.04 CONSERVATOR OF DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSON**

If the proposed conservatee is a developmentally disabled person (Probate Code section 1420), a "Petition for Limited Conservatorship" is mandatory. For further guidance relating to the requirements and procedures of Probate Code section 1471(c), 1827.5, 1828.5, 1830, 1830(b) and 2351.5 see Local Rule 5.09. For those who do not have a developmental disability, a petition for a standard probate conservatorship is appropriate.

*(Rule 5.03(a) previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Renumbered to 5.04 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.05 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

All petitions must be accompanied by supplemental information pursuant to Probate Code section 1821(a). The supplemental information shall be on the Judicial Council form.

*(Rule 5.03(b) Renumbered as 5.05 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.06 NOTICE**

A. Notice to Conservatee. The Probate Code requires that conservatees receive notice of the hearing of conservatorship petitions. The Court will, however, accept a waiver of notice by the conservatee if the conservatee is competent to make such a waiver.

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- B. The petition requires a list of all relatives within the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree (parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and siblings). Notice of Hearing must be given to all such relatives and proposed conservatee's spouse in accordance with Probate Code section 1822. The list shall include the relationship of each person listed to the Conservatee.

If there are no relatives within the second degree and no spouse, the relatives described in Probate Code section 1821(b) must be listed and provided notice pursuant to Probate Code section 1822.

- C. Notice may also be required to the Director of Mental Health, Director of Developmental Services, and/or the Veterans' Administration where appropriate in accordance with Probate Code section 1822.
- D. A minimum of thirty (30) days notice is required for the Court Investigator to complete an investigation pursuant to Probate Code section 1826. An investigation is required in all cases even if the proposed conservatee is the petitioner and will attend the hearing.

*(Rule 5.03(c) Renumbered as 5.06 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.07 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be filed with the petition for appointment of conservator regardless of whether proposed conservatee is the petitioner or will attend the hearing:

- A. The supplemental information described in 5.03(b), above and Judicial Council Form GC 312 "Confidential Conservator Screening Form."
- B. Notice of Hearing (issued by Clerk's Office). Citation, to be issued by Clerk's Office, except where the proposed conservatee is the petitioner.
- C. "Referral for Court Investigator-Conservatorship" (See Court website: [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov)) reflecting confidential information, present location of conservatee, telephone number; names of conservators, attorney of record, addresses, telephone number, and relationship of all the parties, relatives, friends, and neighbors.
- D. If conservatee is medically unable to attend the hearing, a declaration from a licensed medical practitioner is required. Emotional or psychological instability is generally not sufficient cause. (Probate Code sections 1825(b) and (c)).
- E. If the proposed conservatee is found unable to attend the hearing after filing of the petition, petitioner shall promptly file a Capacity Declaration from a licensed medical practitioner and provide a copy to the Court Investigator.
- F. Order Appointing Court Investigator directed to: "Monterey County Court Investigator". The appropriate boxes on the order should be designated to provide the Court Investigator ongoing authority for future reviews.
- G. Following service of the petition and prior to the hearing, the Proof of Service or Order Dispensing with Notice must be filed.

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*(Rule 5.03(e) Renumbered as 5.07 and Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**5.08 THE PETITION FOR PERMANENT CONSERVATORSHIP**

- A. There shall be a separate proceeding for each person for whom conservatorship is sought, and each petition shall provide the proposed conservatee's Social Security number.
- B. Independent powers may not be requested except upon a noticed hearing, either as part of the initial petition or in a subsequently filed petition. (Probate Code sections 2592(c), 1460, et seq.) If Independent Powers under sections 2590 and 2591 are requested, an attachment to the petition shall specify the powers requested, and must state the reasons requiring the powers requested. Only those powers necessary and proper shall be granted.

Proposed restrictions or limitations on the Independent Powers must also be included. The Court will not grant Independent Powers to sell real property or to borrow money with real property as security, unless the bond includes the value of the real property and there are sufficient restrictions to guarantee conservatee's rights regarding the sale of a residence or former residence as contained in Probate Code section 2540(b).

- C. That portion of the petition relating to inherent powers and duties of the conservator (sections 2351-2358) need not be completed unless petitioner wishes to limit or modify the conservator's powers. Unless restricted by the Court, the Conservator of the Person has the power to fix conservatee's residence inside the State of California (Probate Code section 2352), and the power to consent to or withhold consent for medical treatment, though not over conservatee's objection. (Probate Code section 2354)
- D. If exclusive authority to consent to medical treatment is requested, that portion of the petition asking that conservatee be adjudged to lack capacity to consent to any form of medical treatment should be completed. Such powers are granted under Probate Code sections 1880, 1890, 2355 and 2357.

All petitions pursuant to Probate Code section 1880, including requests for those powers in the initial petition for conservatorship, must be accompanied by the declaration of a licensed physician, or a licensed psychologist within the scope of his or her licensure, indicating the conservatee or proposed conservatee lacks the capacity to give informed consent to any form of medical treatment and the reasons therefore in compliance with Probate Code section 1890(c). Declarations attesting only inability to attend the hearing for medical reasons do not comply with this requirement.

- E. If Dementia Powers are sought, that portion of the petition asking that orders be issued relating dementia placement or treatment should be completed. Judicial Council Form GC-335 "Capacity Declaration-Conservatorship" must also be completed and filed.
- F. For conservatorship of estates:
1. The character and estimated value of the property of the estate must be provided;
  2. The petition must state whether property proposed to be included is community or separate.

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- G. When a petition is granted, the petitioner shall file the following documents prior to the issuance of Letters of Conservatorship;
- H. The Order Appointing Conservator (Judicial Counsel Form) and attachments;
  - 1. Proof of Service of Order Appointing Conservator, including service on the Court Investigator and the Conservatee;
  - 2. Bond or receipts from financial institutions per Probate Code section 2328;
  - 3. Conservator's Acknowledgment of Duties & Responsibilities, including his or her date of birth and driver's license number.
  - 4. Community Property. Notwithstanding any provisions of law which provide that the spouse of a proposed conservatee may exclude all or a portion of the community assets from the conservatorship estate, the Court will not ordinarily approve a conservatorship of the estate which does not include all of the community assets (not just conservatee's one-half).

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 5.03(e) Renumbered as 5.08, Relettered and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.09 PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATOR**

Where petitioner seeks to appoint a professional conservator, petitioner must allege that the proposed conservator is a professional conservator. The petitioner shall also allege whether the private professional conservator is registered in the Statewide Registry (Probate Code sections 2850 through 2856) and whether a current professional conservator's statement is on file with the Court and provide the registration number. (Probate Code sections 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343.)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 5.04 Renumbered as 5.09 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.10 LIMITED CONSERVATORSHIPS**

- A. If the proposed conservatee has a "developmental disability", as defined in Probate Code section 1420, the petition must be for a Limited Conservatorship.
- B. An assessment by the nearest regional center pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 4620) of Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, as required by Probate Code section 1827.5, obviates the necessity of filing a "Confidential Supplemental Information", so long as such assessment provides the same information as that required by Probate Code section 1821(a).
- C. An ex parte order for appointment of Public Defender or private counsel should be submitted when the petition is filed to avoid continuance or delay. Appointment of counsel for a proposed limited conservatee is mandatory. (Probate Code section 1471(c).)
- D. The petition must specify what powers are requested for the conservator and which are proposed for retention by the conservatee. (Probate Code section 1830(b) and 2351.5.)

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- E. The Court may exercise its discretion only at the hearing. (Probate Code section 1828.5(d)) Where the Court finds, at the hearing, that the proposed conservatee lacks the capacity to perform all tasks necessary to provide for his/her needs, it may impose a standard probate conservatorship, instead of a limited conservatorship.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 5.05 Renumbered as 5.10 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.11 LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT (LPS) CONSERVATORSHIPS**

- A. Petition Requirements. All petitions for appointment of conservator should state whether or not there is presently a conservator appointed under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, and, if so, the number of the case, the name of the conservator and the LPS Court's findings regarding the affidavit of voter registration.
- B. Notice. Notice shall be given to the LPS Conservator in the same manner as that given to relatives in the second degree.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.05 Renumbered as 5.10 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.12 TEMPORARY CONSERVATORSHIPS**

- A. A petition for temporary conservatorship shall not be granted unless a petition for permanent conservatorship is on file and noticed for hearing.
- B. Where a Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator is filed, the Court's Investigator's Office shall be personally served at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.
- C. The Court will appoint a temporary conservator of the person and/or estate ex parte and without notice as required in Probate Code section 2250(c) only upon a factual showing that an urgent situation requires immediate attention. In all other situations 5 days personal notice is required.
- D. Independent Powers pursuant to Probate Code sections 2590 and 2591 will not be granted under a temporary conservatorship without a noticed hearing as required by Probate Code sections 2592(c) and 1460.
- E. Extraordinary powers for authority to give or withhold consent for medical treatment pursuant to either Probate Code sections 2355 or 2357 shall not be granted except upon a noticed hearing. Conservatee must attend the hearing unless unwilling or unable. If the Conservatee will not attend, a personal interview and report by the Court Investigator pursuant to Probate Code sections 1892-1894 is required.
- F. A temporary conservator may not fix a temporary conservatee's residence at a place different from where he/she resided prior to the commencement of the proceedings without a noticed hearing (Probate Code section 2253), except in the case of an emergency and pursuant to Probate Code section 2254. The proposed conservatee must attend the hearing, or the Court Investigator shall personally interview the proposed conservatee and report to the Court. Procedures required by Probate Code section 2253 shall be strictly followed.

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- G. A temporary conservator shall not sell or relinquish any lease or estate in real or personal property used as or within the conservatee's place of residence without a noticed hearing and specific approval of the Court. (Probate Code section 2252(e).)
- H. Attorney and conservator fees are not payable under a temporary conservatorship, unless Probate Code section 2640 is satisfied.
- I. An "Inventory and Appraisal" and an account must be filed within ninety (90) days after appointment of the temporary conservator, not the issuance of Letters. However, if the temporary conservator is appointed permanent conservator, the accounting for the period of temporary conservatorship may be included in the first annual account. (Probate Code sections 2255 and 2256.)
- J. Temporary Letters of Conservatorship must state a date certain of expiration. This date shall not go beyond the date of the hearing on the permanent conservatorship. If a continuance is requested and allowed, new Letters will be issued upon request and shall expire on the continued date of the hearing.
- K. Bond shall be required for a temporary conservatorship of the estate, except for estate assets deposited in an account requiring Court authorization to remove funds and where appropriate receipts are filed in the proceeding pursuant to Probate Code section 2328. Only under extraordinary circumstances will this requirement of a bond be waived.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.07 Renumbered as 5.12 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.13 HEARING AND APPOINTMENT**

- A. The report of the Court Investigator shall be filed with the Clerk at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the hearing. At the same time, a copy shall be mailed to the attorneys for petitioner and for the proposed conservatee, if any. The report of the Court Investigator and its contents shall be kept confidential as required by Probate Code section 1826(n).
- B. The proposed conservatee must attend the hearing except where excused pursuant to Probate Code section 1825.
  - 1. The proposed conservatee must come forward to the counsel table where the Court may inquire of and advise the proposed conservatee as required by Probate Code section 1828 or, in the case of a Limited Conservatorship, Probate Code section 1828.5.
  - 2. If there has been a nomination and/or waiver of bond filed, executed by the proposed conservatee, the Court shall satisfy itself that he/she had the capacity to execute and understand the nature and significance of such documents.
  - 3. The proposed conservatee shall personally respond to any Court inquiry. A statement by counsel that the conservatee is present and does not object is not sufficient.
  - 4. The above requirements also apply where the proposed conservatee is the petitioner.

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- C. Before Letters shall be issued to the Conservator of the Person or Estate in a newly established conservatorship; or in the case of an existing conservatorship, before any subsequent orders will be signed at the time of the next Court review; the Conservator must:
1. Purchase a copy of the "Handbook for Conservators" and supplement "How to Find and Use Community Resources." Execute and file "Acknowledgment of Receipt of Handbook," signed by him/her and including his/her date of birth and driver's license number;
  2. View the video "With Heart - Understanding Conservatorships". Unless the conservator is a registered professional conservator, he/she must execute and file the requisite acknowledgment of viewing.

D. Fees

1. Legal fees for counsel appointed by the Court to represent the conservatee may be approved and included in the Order Appointing Conservator.
2. Fees for counsel representing the Petitioner or the Conservator, regardless of whether the conservatee was also the petitioner, may not be requested until after the filing of the "Inventory and Appraisal", and in no case before the expiration of ninety (90) days from the issuance of permanent Letters. (Probate Code section 2640)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.08 Renumbered as 5.13 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.14 APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEYS FOR CONSERVATEES**

- A. Estate in Danger of Dissipation. Where it appears to the Court that the estate is in danger of being dissipated or that the conservator or guardian will not respond to citations issued by the Court, an attorney will be appointed for the conservatee. Said attorney shall prepare and file a report for the Court, no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date.
- B. Medical Consent by Conservatee. The Court may appoint an attorney for the conservatee when a request is made under Probate Code section 1880 for the Court to determine whether the conservatee is incapable of giving medical consent, whether such request is made in the original petition or in a separate petition.
- C. Cessation of Representation by Attorney. The representation by an attorney appointed by the Court ceases upon the hearing on the petition or petitions for which he/she was appointed, unless continued representation is specifically ordered by the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.09 Renumbered as 5.14 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.15 BOND**

At the time of appointment of a Conservator of the Estate, the Court must fix a bond. If the conservatee is the petitioner and has waived the requirement of a bond, the Court has the power to appoint the conservator without bond. It is the general policy, however, that a bond will be required if an individual is appointed. The Court will generally not waive the bond or set it

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in an amount less than is customary unless the conservatee is present at the hearing and is found competent to waive bond.

- A. Unless for good cause the Court orders otherwise, the amount of the bond shall include the total value of the personal property plus the total annual income, plus the recovery amount pursuant to Probate Code section 2320(c)(4).
1. Annual income includes that derived from real and personal property.
  2. If the conservatee is a beneficiary under a trust which requires all or a fixed portion of the income of the trust to be distributed to the conservatee, the bond must include that income. However, if the trust provides that the trustee merely applies trust income for the conservatee's needs of care and maintenance, etc., and provides for excess income to be held in the trust and accrued to principal, a bond need not include the trust income.
- B. If Independent Powers (Probate Code sections 2590 and 2591) are granted to include the sale of real property (Probate Code section 2591(d)), or to encumber real property as security for a loan, (Probate Code section 2591(f)), the bond shall include the value of the real property.
1. If sufficient restrictions, limitations or conditions to adequately safeguard and secure the real property are included in the order granting the Independent Powers, bond need not include the value of the real property.
  2. Where the Independent Power to sell real property is limited by requiring Court approval or confirmation, said confirmation shall follow the procedure required as if no Independent Power had been granted. Confirmation proceedings may be dispensed with upon the filing of an appropriate bond and compliance with Probate Code section 2540(b). Dispensing with the confirmation of sale does not imply Court approval. The Court retains the authority to review the sale at the time of the next account and Court review.
  3. If real property is sold pursuant to Probate Code section 2591(d), the sale price may not be less than 90% of the appraised value determined by the Probate Referee within one (1) year prior to sale, unless otherwise authorized by the Court.
- C. With specific prior Court approval, bond may be reduced by the amount of estate assets deposited in an institution described in Probate Code section 2328, if appropriate receipts are filed with the Court verifying that such assets shall not be released without Court authorization. Receipts shall be signed by an officer of the institution.
- Letters of conservatorship shall not issue until the receipts are filed with the Court. Otherwise, a bond will be required for the full amount, to be reduced upon the subsequent filing of appropriate receipts.
- D. A family relationship between the conservator and conservatee, in itself, is not sufficient cause to reduce or eliminate the bond requirement.
- E. If upon the filing of the "Inventory and Appraisal", or at any time when counsel for the conservator concludes that the bond is not sufficient, the conservator shall cause a sufficient bond to be filed or shall petition the Court to approve the existing bond upon the filing of appropriate receipts pursuant to Probate Code sections 2328 or 2456.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 5.10 Renumbered as 5.15 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**POST-APPOINTMENT CONCERNS**

**5.16 NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATORSHIP**

In each case in which real property is an asset of the estate, it is the duty of the conservator of the estate (whether temporary, permanent or successor) to record a notice of establishment of conservatorship with the county recorder in each county where real property of the estate is located, unless (a) the conservatorship is a limited conservatorship and the conservator has not been given the power to contract or (b) the rights of the conservatee have been broadened pursuant to Probate Code section 1873 so that the conservatee retains all powers to deal with the real property.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.11 Renumbered as 5.16 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.17 CONSERVATEE'S RESIDENCE-CONSERVATEE'S REAL PROPERTY**

- A. If the Court determines it appropriate and necessary, based upon information contained in the Court Investigator's report or obtained from any other source, the Court may order that a conservatee's residence not be changed without prior Court authorization.
- B. A sale of conservatee's residence or former residence must comply with Probate Code section 2540(b) and 2543(b). The Independent Power to sell a residence or former residence will not be granted. Compliance with Probate Code section 2540(b) is required in all instances. See also Local Rule 4.38
- C. In no case is the conservator of the person authorized to fix conservatee's residence out of state without prior Court approval.
  - 1. When authorization is granted it shall be for a period of time not to exceed four (4) months. The Order shall provide for immediate return of the conservatee to the State of California at the end of the authorized time period. The Court will extend the four (4) month time period only upon a satisfactory showing that an equivalent proceeding has been initiated in the other state. The period of any extension granted by the Court will only be sufficient to allow the equivalent proceeding to be finalized. The Court retains jurisdiction until the equivalent proceeding is finalized and a Certified Copy of the Court's Order from the new state of residence is filed.
  - 2. Where authorization has been granted for temporary residence outside the State of California, the conservator shall return the conservatee to this state for the personal visit by the Court Investigator at the time a "Court Review" is required.
  - 3. The Court Investigator is not authorized to conduct any Court investigation or review through a third person out of state.
- D. A Court Review is not required where there is a conservatorship of the estate only, and the conservatee resides out of state and is not present in this state. (Probate Code section 1850(d)(2)). Timely accountings are still required. (See Local Rule 5.23 et seq.)

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- E. A "Referral for Court Investigator-Conservatorship" (See Court website: [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov)) shall be filed:
1. With the initial petition;
  2. Each time either the conservatee or conservator has a change of address; and,
  3. With each accounting, or petition to dispense with an accounting pursuant to Probate Code section 2628, after receipt of the "Notice of Court Review."
- F. Sales of conservatee's real property must also comply with 2540, 2543, and Local Rule 4.38

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 5.13 Renumbered as 5.17 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.18 PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT EVALUATION**

A placement assessment evaluation, pursuant to Probate Code Section 2352.5, shall be filed within 60 days of the establishment of all conservatorships, including those cases where only a conservatorship of the estate is established.

*(Rule 5.18 Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Renumbered as 5.24 effective January 1, 2009; New Rule 5.18 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.19 INVENTORY AND APPRAISAL**

- A. An "Inventory and Appraisal" shall be filed within 120 days from the hearing appointing the conservator in all cases where there is a conservatorship of the estate, even where there are no assets. When the value of the individual items to be listed is small, such items may be listed in broad categories, such as Clothing, Tools, Furniture, etc. However, items unique in nature or of substantial value must be itemized and appraised separately. In addition, all securities must be itemized and appraised separately. It is not acceptable merely to indicate the value of a brokerage or similar account.
- B. After-acquired or newly discovered property shall be inventoried and appraised pursuant to Probate Code section 2613, in a Supplemental "Inventory and Appraisal."

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.14 Renumbered as 5.19 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.20 SUBSTITUTED JUDGMENT (Probate Code section 2580)**

- A. Prior Court approval is required for any action specified in Probate Code sections 2580 or 2423, such as making gifts or establishing, amending or funding a trust.
- B. A noticed hearing is ordinarily required, as specified in Probate Code sections 2581 and 1460, et seq.

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- C. Petitions requesting authority to exercise substituted judgment will not be heard until after the permanent conservator is appointed and Letters have been issued. Additionally:
1. The "Inventory and Appraisal" shall be filed, unless the Court otherwise orders on the basis of a clear and convincing showing that an urgency exists; and
  2. If the Court waives filing of a formal "Inventory and Appraisal", the petition shall nonetheless include a description of the character and estimated value of the property of the estate.
- D. Petitions requesting Substituted Judgment, which potentially have an affect on the conservatee's estate plan, should provide all known testamentary documents related to the petition, including, but not limited to:
- Existing trust agreement;
  - Proposed trust agreement or proposed amendment;
  - Last will and testament of conservatee;
  - If no will, a specific description of how and to whom property would pass by intestacy; and
  - A statement of the nature and amount of existing claims of creditors' against the conservatorship estate.

Confidential documents may be sealed and may be viewed by the judge in chambers to maintain confidentiality.

- E. Upon the creation of a trust pursuant to a petition to exercise substituted judgment, the conservatorship of the estate shall continue in effect. The conservator will continue to supervise the trustee and enforce the trustee's fiduciary duties where necessary. Accountings will continue to be required as they would have if the trust had not been established. Nothing in this rule affects a trust already in existence before the conservatorship was established.
- F. Regardless of any other provision of the trust to the contrary, during the settler's lifetime the trustee shall be subject to the same duties and limitations as a conservator of the estate under the laws of the State of California, as to the following matters:
1. Posting bond
  2. Filing accountings and reports for Court approval
  3. Investments and transaction
  4. Trustee and attorney fees
  5. Providing for the conservatee.

No sales, or leases for terms exceeding one year, shall be made without prior Court approval.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.15 Renumbered as 5.20 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**5.21 NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Conservators and guardians shall file with the Court and serve upon the Court Investigator written notice of any change of their address, or the address of their conservatees, within thirty (30) days of the change of address. Failure to comply may result in suspension or removal.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.16 Renumbered as 5.21 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.22 COUNSEL FOR CONSERVATEE**

In all cases where the Conservatee is represented by counsel, Orders submitted to the Court must be approved as to form and content by Conservatee's counsel.

*(Rule 5.22 Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Renumbered as 5.28 effective January 1, 2009; New Rule 5.22 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.23 ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING**

**COURT REVIEWS, ACCOUNTS AND STATUS REPORTS**

A. A court review, as described in Probate Code section 1850 and 1851, is required one (1) year after appointment, not date of issuance of Letters, and annually thereafter. However, if the Court determines at the initial review or any subsequent review that the conservator is acting in the best interests of the conservatee, the Court may require a court review biennially from the anniversary date of appointment.

Conservator's "Account" and "Status Report" shall be filed in conjunction with each "Court Review".

B. All Conservators who have not obtained a copy of the "Handbook for Conservators" or who have not viewed the video "With Heart - Understanding Conservatorship", must do so prior to the time of the Court Review. The accounting will not be approved by the Court until this requirement has been complied with.

C. A "Confidential Status Report," as formerly required by Probate Code section 2620.1, shall be filed by the conservator at each Court Review. The "Confidential Status Report" shall be a separate document from the petition and account and shall be confidential. This document is required of a conservator and is also required with any petition to waive the account.

The "Confidential Status Report" shall address the current physical/medical condition of the conservatee; the current level of care; any anticipated changes in residence and/or level of care, and reason(s) for change; any involvement of family and friends of the conservatee; and any unusual circumstances related to conservatee and/or conservatorship of the estate. (Amended effective January 1, 2007.)

D. The supporting documentation required by Probate Code Section 2620 shall be "lodged" with the Court pending approval of the Conservator/Guardian's accounting. Lodged documents shall be submitted with a Financial Documents Caption Sheet (Clerk's Form FIN-CAP (New January 2011)) and a pre-addressed, postage paid envelope for return of the

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lodged documents. Upon approval of the accounting, the lodged documents shall be returned to the submitting party and retained by the attorney for the Conservator/Guardian, until the Conservator/Guardian has been discharged. In cases where the Conservator/Guardian is acting in propria persona, the Conservator/Guardian's supporting documentation shall be filed and retained in the Court's file.

- E. Each "Account," whether filed annually or biennially shall cover the period ending on the anniversary date of appointment of the permanent conservator or successor. The anniversary date shall be the date of the hearing appointing conservator.
1. The Petition and "Account" shall be filed no later than sixty (60) days after the anniversary date and shall be noticed for hearing forty-five (45) days after its filing in a year when a Court Review is due and at least fifteen (15) days after filing in a year when no Court Review is due.
  2. The Court Investigator is required to personally visit the conservatee, review the "Account" and "Status Report", and file a written report fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing. (Probate Code section 1851.)
- F. In years when a Court Review is required, a "Notice of Court Review" will be filed by the Court Investigator and copies shall be served by mail on conservator(s), attorney for conservator(s) and attorney for conservatee.
1. The "Notice of Court Review" shall be filed and mailed thirty (30) days prior to the anniversary date of appointment of conservator, or successor conservator;
  2. The "Notice of Court Review" will require the upcoming "Account" and "Status Report" to cover the period through, and end on, the anniversary date of appointment;
  3. The "Notice of Court Review" shall state the date by which the "Account" and "Status Report" must be filed, which shall be no later than sixty (60) days following the anniversary date;
  4. The "Notice of Court Review" shall state the date of hearing on the petition for approval of "Account" and "Court Review"; and
  5. If the "Account" and "Status Report" are not filed and no appearance is made at the hearing noticed for "Court Review", the Court shall issue an Order to Show Cause citing the Conservator(s) and Conservator(s)' attorney.
- G. Findings of the Court Investigator pursuant to Probate Code section 1851, shall be submitted to the Court in writing not less than 15 days prior to the hearing on the "Court Review" and "Account". A copy of the report shall also be mailed by the Court Investigator to the conservator(s) and to the attorney of record for the conservator and conservatee. This report and its contents shall be kept confidential.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 5.17 Renumbered and Re-lettered as 5.23; subd. (d) added, Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011, Amended (Repealed Financial Documents Caption Sheet) effective July 1, 2012)*

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**5.24 ACCOUNTING FORMAT/SUPPORTING SCHEDULES/PETITION FOR APPROVAL**

The accounting format must comply with the requirements of Probate Code §§1061, 1062, and 1063.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 5.18; Renumbered as 5.24 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.25 ACCOUNT - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**

The following must be filed with each accounting:

- A. The "Account" of a conservator of the estate who is also the conservator of the person must be accompanied by a "Confidential Status Report" (Probate Code section 2620.1). If the conservator of the estate is not the conservator of the person, the conservator of the person must file the status report in conjunction with the accounting filed by the conservator of the estate. Failure to comply with this rule may result in suspension or removal.
- B. "Notice of Hearing"
- C. "Referral to Court Investigator" (Clerk's Form 212, rev. 2008) reflecting names, addresses and telephone numbers of conservatee, conservator, attorney for conservator, attorney for conservatee, and names, addresses and contact information for conservatee's relatives and/or friends.
- D. "Order Appointing Court Investigator" executed to "Monterey County Court Investigator", unless ongoing authority has been provided for in the initial "Order Appointing Court Investigator".

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.19 Renumbered as 5.25 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**5.26 FINAL ACCOUNTS**

- A. The "Final Account" shall be filed no later than ninety (90) days after termination of the conservatorship. (Date of death or date of order terminating the conservatorship.)
- B. The "Final Account" shall be accompanied by a petition requesting its approval, authority for disposition of the assets, and conservator's discharge upon the filing of receipts.
- C. If there is a request for waiver of Probate Code section 1851.5 assessments, a clear and concise reason shall be included in the petition.
- D. If a probate proceeding has already been initiated, the petition shall state the caption, case number, county where filed, and the name of the petitioning party.
- E. Notice of the hearing on a petition for settlement of the "Final Account" must be given to the personal representative, if any, of a deceased conservatee.
- F. Bank statements and other such documents from mutual funds and brokerage accounts, etc. to support ending assets on hand, are now statutorily required.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 5.20 Renumbered as 5.26 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.27 FEES IN CONSERVATORSHIPS**

- A. Fees for services as conservator or for legal services rendered the conservator or conservatorship may not be requested until after the "Inventory and Appraisal" is filed, and in no case before the expiration of ninety (90) days from the date of appointment of the conservator. (Probate Code section 2640)
- B. Fees for legal counsel appointed by the Court to represent the conservatee may be requested and included in the Order Appointing Conservator, notwithstanding that an "Inventory and Appraisal" has not yet been filed. If not awarded at this time, counsel for conservatee may request fees by his/her own noticed motion.
- C. Attorney Fees. In determining attorney fees for representation of conservators or conservatees, the Court will consider those factors referred to in Local Rule 4.65 and 4.66. Counsel are directed to California Rules of Court, Rules 7.750-7.755. All fee requests must comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 7.751. The requested fee must be supported in a verified petition or by a separate verified declaration stating the nature, benefit to the conservatee or conservatorship estate, time spent, hourly rate, detail of services rendered and the amount requested. A recitation of time spent, without more, is not adequate. The Court has the discretion to require additional justification for all attorney fees requested.
- D. Conservator Fees. The Court's review of conservator's fee request shall consider the nature of services provided, their necessity, the success or benefit to conservatee or the conservatorship estate, time spent, hourly rate, basis for the hourly rate, detail of services performed, expertise required, and the amount requested. A broad, general description of services or a simple recitation of time spent is not adequate. The Court has the discretion to require additional justification for all conservator fees requested. Counsel are directed to California Rules of Court, Rule 7.756 for additional factors which the Court may consider, and to Local Rule 4.65 for the amounts customarily allowed for attorneys and professional fiduciaries. For nonprofessional fiduciaries, the Court customarily will allow no more than \$45 per hour, except when services are performed by family members, in which case the maximum allowed will be \$25 per hour. No fees will ordinarily be allowed for services rendered by a family member which are of the type which the Court finds are expected to be performed by a family member by virtue of the family relationship (e.g., sitting at the bedside of an ill conservatee or simply being present while handymen remove items from a garage to haul away). Fiduciaries should not assume that the Court will automatically allow the maximum rates.
- E. Fees must be requested, waived or deferral of payment requested in conjunction with the accounting. Deferral of payment will only be approved subsequent to Court approval of the amount of the fees for which deferral is requested.

Where conservator is also the attorney for the conservatorship, there shall be separate itemized statements for services as conservator and for legal services showing clearly that there is no duplication of services and/or fees.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.21 Renumbered as 5.27 effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

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**5.28 SMALL ESTATES: PUBLIC BENEFITS (Probate Code section 2628)**

- A. If a conservatorship estate qualifies under Probate Code section 2628, the Court may grant an ex parte petition to dispense with the filing of an account.
- B. The petition shall state:
  - 1. The value of the estate at the beginning and end of the account period, exclusive of conservatee's residence. It is not sufficient to allege that the total net value, exclusive of the residence, is less than \$15,000. A copy of financial statements showing the ending balances shall be filed with the petition.
  - 2. The amount and nature of the "public benefit payments". It is not sufficient to allege that monthly payments, exclusive of public benefit payments, were less than \$2,000.
  - 3. A description of any other monthly income for each month of the accounting period, excluding wages and salaries of conservatee, demonstrating that the estate meets the requirements of Probate Code section 2628.
- C. The petition shall be presented each time an "Account" would otherwise be due. This assures the Court that the estate continues to qualify. A "Status Report" as required by Probate Code section 2620.1 is also required.
- D. Veteran's Benefits are not "public benefit payments".
- E. The Order waiving an accounting must be served on the Court Investigator at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing on the Court Review.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.22 Renumbered as 5.28 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**5.29 TRUSTS AND CONSERVATORSHIPS**

Where conservatee is a beneficiary of a trust not established pursuant to Probate Code section 2580:

- A. A copy of the trust agreement shall be provided to the Court Investigator upon request;
- B. At the time of each "Court Review" a verified summary or recapitulation showing the following shall be filed as a confidential document:
  - 1. The principal amount of the trust estate;
  - 2. A description of conservatee's beneficial interest in the trust;
  - 3. The amount of income generated for the benefit of the conservatee, regardless whether distributed or applied to principal; and
  - 4. The name, address, and telephone number of the trustee.

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- C. Any income required by the trust instrument to be distributed to the conservatee is conservatorship income and it must be included in an accounting to the Court pursuant to these rules and Probate Code section 2620.
- D. For any trust created under the conservatorship as a matter of substituted judgment pursuant to Probate Code section 2580, accountings shall continue to be required, and the conservatorship shall not be terminated. (Local Rule 16.08)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.23 Renumbered as 5.29 effective January 1, 2009)*

**RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL**

**5.30 RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL; APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR;  
FINAL ACCOUNT AND DISCHARGE**

- A. Effective Date of Resignation. The conservator may resign at any time but the resignation is not effective and will not be approved until the appointment of a successor conservator. (Termination of a conservatorship does not require resignation of the conservator.)
- B. Contemporaneous Petition to Appoint Successor. A petition for resignation must be filed contemporaneously with a petition for appointment of a successor conservator, provided that the consent of the successor conservator is filed prior to or at the time of hearing.
- C. The petition for a successor conservator may be submitted on the same form approved by The Judicial Council of California for initial petitions, deleting those portions which are not applicable.
- D. The Notice of Hearing shall be substantially the same as required on an initial petition, including all relatives designated in Probate Code section 1821(b), other governmental agencies where appropriate, and the Court Investigator. Probate Code section 2683.)
- E. Attendance. Conservatee is not required to attend the hearing for appointment of successor conservator. If the conservatee will not attend the hearing, the Court Investigator must personally visit the conservatee and file a written report to the Court at least five (5) days prior to the hearing. (Probate Code section 2684.)
- F. Final Account. A final account of the resigning conservator and/or a petition for fees upon resignation cannot be approved until a successor is appointed and is served with notice of hearing and a copy of the account and/or petition.
- G. A successor conservator's "First Account", as in the case of a predecessor, shall be presented to the Court one (1) year after appointment in the same manner as required in Local Rules 5.24 and 5.25.
- H. At the hearing for appointment of successor conservator, the same procedural requirements apply as for the initial appointment of conservator. (See Local Rule 5.03 and 5.07 and take particular note of 5.07 (g).
- I. The successor conservator of the estate shall not account for the period prior to his/her appointment, except as provided in Probate Code section 2632, and the predecessor shall not be discharged until all of the following are accomplished:

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1. Approval of predecessor's Final Account including the period up to the appointment of the successor and delivery of assets;
2. The filing of a receipt, executed by the successor conservator, acknowledging delivery and receipt of the assets as reflected in the "Assets on Hand" in the Final Account; and
3. The predecessor conservator shall include in his/her petition for discharge a statement affirming that assets have been neither received by the estate nor disbursements made from the estate since the final account period.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Rule 5.24 Renumbered as 5.30 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.31 ABSCONDING CONSERVATORS (Probate Code section 2632)**

- A. For the purpose of this section an "Absconding Conservator" shall include:
1. A conservator whose whereabouts are unknown, and who has not filed an "Account" that is due;
  2. A conservator whose whereabouts are known, but who refuses to cooperate in presenting an account to the Court; and
  3. A conservator who has removed the conservatee and/or his assets from the state without prior Court authorization.
- B. In the case of an absconding conservator, the Court may compel the attorney for the conservator or the attorney of record in the conservatorship proceeding to render an account to the extent that information or records are available to the attorney. The account need not be verified. (Probate Code section 2632)
- C. An absconding conservator may be removed and surcharged an amount deemed appropriate by the Court. An action against the surety may be initiated, on the basis of the amount surcharged, by appointed counsel for the conservatee.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.25 Renumbered as 5.31 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.32 TERMINATION OF CONSERVATORSHIP**

- A. A conservatorship is terminated by either:
1. The death of the conservatee (petition to terminate not necessary). The conservator must file a Notice of Death of the conservatee and serve a copy on the Court Investigator within 10 days of learning of the conservatee's death; or
  2. By Court Order where the reason for establishing the conservatorship no longer exists. This must be established by an evidentiary showing. (Probate Code sections 1860-1863)
- B. The filing of a certification of competency issued by the superintendent of a state hospital pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 7357, or other provisions of law, does not of itself terminate a conservatorship.

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- C. The Court retains jurisdiction over the conservatorship to enforce orders, review the final account, and to grant discharge. (Probate Code section 2630)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Rule 5.26 Renumbered as 5.32 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.33 ASSESSMENTS (Probate Code section 1851.5)**

- A. The Court Investigator fee must be paid at the time the petition is filed in the following instances: Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator, Conservator's Accountings when heard in conjunction with a Court Review, and/or Petition to Change Conservatee's Residence. If the Conservator believes the fees should be deferred or waived due to hardship, the subject petition shall include a request for deferral or waiver and shall set forth facts to establish a hardship.
- B. Any request to have assessments deferred must be included in the petition to appoint conservator, successor conservator, or in the petition to approve or waive the account and must include the factual basis for the request.
- C. Upon termination, any assessments previously deferred are nonetheless due and payable, except under either of the following conditions:
1. The conservatee is still living and payment of all or a portion should be waived based upon hardship to the conservatee, or,
  2. The conservatee's estate has no assets with which to pay all or a portion of the assessments due. Hardship is not a consideration where the conservatee is deceased.
- D. The order approving "Final Account" of conservator will not be granted until the assessments are either paid or waived by the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Rule 5.27 Renumbered as 5.33 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**5.34 CONSERVATORSHIPS TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER COUNTY**

Copies of the Petition and Order authorizing transfer shall be served upon the Court Investigator of the county to which it is transferred, including cases transferred to Monterey County.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.28 Renumbered as 5.34 effective January 1, 2009)*

**GUARDIANSHIPS**

**5.35 APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANS**

- A. Petition. Petitions for appointment of guardians of minors are generally set for hearing. Bond and/or blocked accounts will be required for all estate guardianships.
- B. Supporting Declarations. The petition for appointment of guardian must be accompanied by:

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1. The Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, Judicial Council Form GC- 212 "Confidential Guardian Screening Form" and;
2. A Declaration setting forth the following:
  - a. The reason for establishing the proposed guardianship;
  - b. The relationship of the proposed ward to the proposed guardian, including the duration and character of the relationship and what responsibilities for care, if any, the proposed guardian has had regarding the proposed ward. (Probate Code section 1513(a)(3))
  - c. The circumstances under which the proposed guardian acquired physical custody of the proposed ward, if the proposed guardian has physical custody of the proposed ward at the time the petition is filed. (Probate Code section 1513(a)(3))
  - d. Any developmental, emotional, psychological, or educational needs of the proposed ward that have been identified and the capability of the proposed guardian to meet these needs. (Probate Code section 1513(a)(2))
  - e. The anticipated duration of the proposed guardianship and the plans of both the natural parents and the proposed guardian for a stable and permanent home for the child. (Probate Code section 1513(a)(4))
  - f. The criminal history, if any, of the proposed guardian or a statement that the proposed guardian has no criminal history.
  - g. For each proposed guardian:
    - Date of birth;
    - Social security number;
    - Maiden name, if applicable;
    - Any aliases;
    - Home and work telephone numbers.
  - h. The name, age, relationship and social security number of any person, living in the household who is sixteen (16) years of age or older must also be provided.
- C. Notice. Fifteen (15) days notice by personal service must be given to non-petitioning parents, to the minor, if 12 years of age or older, and to the person or persons having custody. Fifteen (15) days notice by mail must be given to all second degree relatives.

See also Probate Code section 1461 and 1516 for other persons or entities that may require notice by mail.

In some cases notice may be dispensed with, as where waivers of notice and consents have been obtained from both of the minor's parents or from the minor, if 12 years of age or older. Notice may also be dispensed with upon a proper showing, where the Court determines it to be "in the interests of justice."

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- D. Single Application for Multiple Wards. The Court will consider a single application for appointment of the same guardian of the person or estate or both of more than one minor, if the minors are siblings. In all other instances separate applications must be filed. (Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 5.29 Renumbered as 5.35 effective January 1, 2009)
- E. The fee for the Court Investigator must be paid at the time the Petition for Appointment of Guardian or Petition for Termination of Guardianship is filed. If the Petitioner believes the fees should be deferred or waived due to hardship, the Petitioner shall file a request for deferral or waiver of the fee and shall set forth facts sufficient to establish a hardship. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Rule 5.29 Renumbered as 5.35 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**5.36 DEFINITION OF CONSANGUINITY**

Probate Code section 1510(c)(3) requires relatives of the proposed ward within the second degree to be listed in the petition. Those relatives include: children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, brothers and sisters. (NOTE: nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and great-grandparents are relatives of the third degree and are not entitled to notice under this section.)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.30 Renumbered as 5.36 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.37 APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY GUARDIANS**

- A. Petition. On or after filing a petition for appointment of a general guardian, any person entitled to petition may be appointed temporary guardian of the person or estate or both, in the discretion of the Court.
- B. Notice. If the minor is 12 years of age or older, petitions for temporary letters will require five (5) days notice to the proposed ward. The Court may grant temporary letters, ex parte, where immediate need for letters can be shown, and the Court deems it to be in the best interests of the minor to waive notice requirements.
- C. Bond. The Court will require temporary guardians of estates to post bond.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.31 Renumbered as 5.37 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.38 DUTIES OF GUARDIAN--LIABILITY OF PARENTS TO SUPPORT CHILD**

Parents are required by statute to support their children. Where a parent is also the guardian, the Court will not permit guardianship funds to be used for the minor's maintenance, support or education except upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances which clearly justify a departure from this rule as being in the best interest of the minor.

*(Adopted effective October, 1, 1998; Rule 5.32 Renumbered to 5.38 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.39 APPRAISALS AND ACCOUNTS**

The Probate Code provides that an "Inventory and Appraisal" shall be filed within ninety (90) days after appointment. (Probate Code section 2610(a))

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- A. Valuation. The original appraisal in guardianship estates shall set forth the assets and values as of the date of appointment. Appraisals of after acquired property, by inheritance or gift, shall fix the value as of the date of acquisition. Assets purchased by the guardian are carried in the account at the cost of acquisition.
- B. Periodic Payments. If the ward receives Veterans, Social Security, Welfare, or other periodic benefits, the initial inventory must indicate the amount received each month.
- C. Accounting. A verified "Account" is required one (1) year after the date of appointment, not the date of issuance of Letters. Biennial "Accounts" will be required thereafter. "Accounts" must be filed no later than sixty (60) days following the end of the accounting period.
- D. Form of Account. See Local Rules 5.24 and 4.48
- E. Multiple Wards. When a guardian accounts for the assets of more than one minor, the accounting for each minor must be set forth individually.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Rule 5.33 Renumbered and Amended as 5.39 effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.40 ANNUAL REVIEW OF GUARDIANSHIPS**

Each guardian shall file with the Court a completed Confidential Guardianship Status Report (GC-251) one year after the anniversary date of appointment of the Guardianship. A hearing on the status report shall be set one (1) month after the anniversary date of appointment.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**5.41 INDEPENDENT POWERS**

The Court does not encourage granting of independent powers and will grant particular powers only in response to specific allegations showing their necessity. Where the power to sell real property is granted, the sale must be returned to the Court for confirmation.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 5.34 Renumbered as 5.41 effective January 1, 2009)*

**MINOR OR INCOMPETENT'S CLAIM**

**5.42 PROCEEDING TO COMPROMISE MINOR'S OR INCOMPETENT'S CLAIM  
(Probate Code sections 3500 - 3612)**

- A. Petition. A petition to compromise the claim of a minor or incompetent must be filed as a civil proceeding, not a probate proceeding. The petition must set forth jurisdictional facts and state the amount to be paid, by whom, and what disbursement for costs and/or fees is requested. The petition must also request the deposit of the balance of the proceeds in a blocked account in a federally insured bank, credit union or savings and loan association in the manner provided by law, with receipts filed. Although filed at the Civil proceeding, hearing shall be held in the Probate department.
- B. Order. The order shall provide for the person or entity holding funds to make a check payable to the person or persons entitled to costs and fees and shall provide for the

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issuance of a check for the remaining funds made payable to the proposed trustee AND the bank, credit union or savings and loan association.

- C. Duty of Attorney. The attorney for the petitioner is responsible for assuring that the funds are deposited in accordance with the order and receipts filed.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 5.35 Renumbered to 5.42 and Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended, effective January 1, 2011)*

**MEDIATION PROGRAM**

**5.43 CONSERVATORSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP MEDIATION PROGRAM RULES  
(See rule 6.12, Court-Directed Mediation Program Rules)**

*(Rule 5.36 Renumbered as 5.43 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**CHAPTER 6**

**CIVIL DEPARTMENT**

**6.01 ORGANIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BUSINESS**

- A. The Civil Division shall be comprised of the Supervising Civil Judge and a minimum of two other judges as assigned by the Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge may assign additional judges as needed.
- B. The Supervising Civil Judge shall have the responsibility of assigning cases, monitoring case and trial management, and supervising the functions of the Civil Division.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**6.02 JURISDICTION AND LOCATION**

- A. Jurisdiction. The Civil Division shall have jurisdiction over all civil cases, regardless of jurisdictional amount, to include: civil jury and court trials, unlawful detainer, small claims, small claims appeals, creditors examinations, minor's compromises, probate matters, civil settlement conferences, civil writs, civil case and trial management, and law and motion.
- B. Location. The Civil Division shall be located in the Monterey Division Courthouse at 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, California. All civil cases shall be processed and tried by the Civil Division except as otherwise authorized by these rules, specially assigned, or as directed by the Presiding Judge.
- C. All Temporary Restraining Orders brought on behalf or against an elder person, as defined by Probate Code Section 2952(b), shall be initially heard in the Probate Department.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Subd.(c) added and Rule Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**6.03 CALENDARS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective July 1, 2003; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2009; Subd. (f) Repealed, Rule Relettered Amended effective July 1, 2010; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

**6.04 DETERMINATION AND DESIGNATION OF JURISDICTIONAL AMOUNTS  
IN CONTROVERSY**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2003, Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**6.05 CASE AND TRIAL MANAGEMENT RULES - GENERAL**

- A. Sections 6.05-6.11 shall apply to all civil cases except domestic relations, adoption, probate, and unlawful detainer unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

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- B. The setting of all civil cases for trial shall be in accordance with Rules for Trial Courts 3.713-3.735 of the California Rules of Court and these rules.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective July 1, 2009)*

**6.06 POLICY STATEMENT**

Pursuant to statutes of the State of California, it is the responsibility of the Court to establish procedures for the timely and effective disposition of civil cases.

The Court is charged with the responsibility of ensuring all parties a fair and timely resolution of their disputes, and the Court is in the best position to establish neutral rules and policies without adversely affecting all parties' right to a fair trial. Effective management of the judicial system will build continuing respect by the community for government, minimize the costs to the parties and the public, and maximize the probability that cases will be timely resolved. It is the purpose of these rules to establish such a procedure without unreasonably affecting the adversary process.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999)*

**6.07 POLICY GOALS**

- A. The goals of the Monterey County Civil Case and Trial Management System are:
1. to provide an effective and fair procedure for the timely disposition of civil cases;
  2. to provide a mechanism to gather needed case information in order to make appropriate judicial management decisions; and
  3. to establish reasonable rules and policies to require that cases reporting "ready" for trial may be tried without unnecessary delays or interruptions.
- B. In order to effectuate these goals, it is the intent of the Court to differentiate between cases according to their anticipated complexity and length. In the discretion of the Court, cases will generally be assigned, under these policies and rules, into one of the following categories:

CATEGORY ONE: Category one cases are defined as cases that are expected to reach disposition in no more than 12 months. Generally, these cases would have an estimated length of trial of two days or less and/or present no complex issues.

CATEGORY TWO: Category two cases are defined as cases that are expected to reach disposition in no more than 12 to 18 months. Generally, these cases would have an estimated length of trial of four days or less and/or present significant legal issues.

CATEGORY THREE: Category three cases are defined as cases that are expected to reach disposition in 18 to 24 months. Generally, these cases would have an estimated length of trial of over four court days and/or present complex legal or factual issues.

- C. The Court may in the interest of justice exempt a general civil case from the case disposition time goals under California Rule of Court 3.713 if it finds the case involves exceptional

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circumstances that will prevent the Court and the parties from meeting the goals and deadlines imposed by the program. In making the determination, the Court is guided by California Rules of Court 3.715 and 3.400.

If the Court exempts the case from the case disposition time goals, the Court must establish a case progression plan and monitor the case to ensure timely disposition consistent with the exceptional circumstances, with the goal of disposing of the case within three years.

- D. The Court recognizes that an early and amicable disposition will minimize costs to the litigants and public. The Court will encourage referrals to the court-directed mediation program, early voluntary settlement conferences and/or other alternative dispute resolution in all cases.
- E. Failure to follow these rules, file a mandatory Case Management Statement or Trial Management Report and/or attend a mandatory Case Management Conference may result in sanctions.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Subd. (e) Repealed, Rule Relettered effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended (Repealed Subd. (b); renumber (c)-(g) to (b)-(f)) effective July 1, 2012)*

**6.08 FROM CASE FILING TO CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

- A. On the filing of every complaint, the Clerk shall set a date for an initial CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE at least 120 days but no later than 180 days from the filing of the complaint. Notice is in the form of a stamp on the face of the complaint.
- B. Plaintiff shall serve all parties with notice of the initial Case Management Conference within the timeframe set forth in California Rule of Court 3.722(b).
- C. The parties may request that the initial Case Management Conference be vacated or continued by filing the Request to Vacate or Continue Initial Case Management Conference and Order concurrently with the Case Management Statement. Receipt of a signed copy of the Request to Vacate or Continue Initial Case Management Conference and Order granting the request is necessary for parties to be excused from the Case Management Conference; if parties do not receive a signed copy of the Order granting the request, they must attend the initial Case Management Conference

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Subd. (d) Repealed, 6.08 (e-h) Relettered, Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended (Repealed Subd. (c-d)(f-g), renumbered (e) to (c)) effective July 1, 2012)*

**6.09 CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES**

- A. At the Case Management Conference, counsel for each party and each self-represented party must appear personally or telephonically, must be familiar with the case, and must be prepared to discuss all matters contained in the Case Management Statements.

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- B. If it appears for good cause that the matter will not be ready for trial within 3 to 5 months of the Case Management Conference, the Court shall set additional Case Management or Status Conferences as necessary.
- C. Failure to file a Case Management Statement, appear at the Case Management Conference, or participate effectively at the Case Management Conference may result in appropriate sanctions.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended 6.09(b) and Repealed Subd. (a)(c) effective July 1, 2012, renumbered (b) to (a), (d) to (b), (e) to (c))*

**6.10 MANAGEMENT OF TRIAL**

If a case is reported ready for trial and has not settled, it is reasonable for the court to expect that the parties are prepared, have timely reviewed and exchanged information, and that there will be no unnecessary delays in the trial. Trial Management policies, orders, reports, and/or conferences are means for the Court to monitor trial preparation and ensure that the parties are aware of and comply with the Court's expectations. The parties are expected to meet, confer, and cooperate in complying with these rules.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended and Re-titled effective July 1, 2010)*

**6.11 TRIAL MANAGEMENT ORDERS AND REPORTS**

In order to ensure that the case is ready for trial and that there will be no unnecessary delays, the following orders are made:

- A. Trial counsel for each of the parties shall meet and confer prior to trial for purposes of reviewing exhibits, potential witnesses, stipulations, exchange of trial motions, and compliance with this order. Failure to meet and confer concerning the matters herein may result in sanctions in accordance with CCP § 575.2, including but not limited to the exclusion or limitation of evidence, monetary sanctions, dismissal of the case, striking of pleadings or entry of a default judgment.
- B. The attorneys shall prepare a Trial Management Report and Brief [APPENDIX A] and file the Report as set forth below. Courtesy chambers copies of all Trial Management Reports, Briefs and Motions in limine shall be submitted at the same time.

Category One: Friday prior to trial.

Category Two: Four (4) court days prior to trial, no later than 3:00 p.m.

Category Three: The Court may set a Trial Management Conference approximately 10 days prior to trial. The attorneys shall meet and confer, prior to the Trial Management Conference, for purposes of preparing the Trial Management Report and Brief. The Trial Management Report and Brief shall be filed jointly or individually at least three days prior to the Conference, otherwise (4) court days prior to trial.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended and Re-titled effective July 1, 2010, Amended July 1, 2012)*

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**6.12 COURT-DIRECTED MEDIATION PROGRAM RULES**

- A. Eligible Cases. The Court shall determine those cases that are suitable for the Mediation Program and shall announce the determination orally to the parties at a case management conference in civil cases when the case is set for trial. Parties may request Court Directed Mediation by filing a stipulation with the Court. The case will be reviewed by the court and if the case is suitable, the parties will receive a Notice of Referral to Mediation from the Court's ADR Administrator.
- B. Referral to Mediation.
1. Referral Process. If the parties accept the Court's determination and agree to mediation, the Court's ADR Administrator will refer the case for mediation. Mediators are selected from a list on a rotating basis, unless otherwise ordered by the court. The ADR Administrator will select two mediators, one of whom shall be the assigned mediator and other shall be the alternate mediator. If there is a conflict of interest for the assigned mediator, the parties will contact the alternate mediator.
  2. Compensation. Mediators shall volunteer their preparation time and the first two (2) hours of mediation. After two hours of mediation, the mediator may either (1) continue to volunteer his or her time or (2) give the parties the option of concluding the mediation or paying the mediator for additional time at an hourly rate of \$200. The mediation will continue only if all parties and the mediator agree. After eight hours in one or more mediation sessions, if all parties agree, the mediator may charge his or her hourly rate or such other rate that all parties agree to pay. In special circumstances for complex cases, requiring substantial preparation time, the parties and the mediator may make other arrangements. No party may offer or give the mediator any gift.
  3. Payment. All terms and conditions of payment must be clearly communicated to the parties by the mediator. The parties may agree in writing to pay the fee in other than equal portions. The parties shall pay the mediator directly.
  4. Mediation Agreement. A MEDIATION AGREEMENT between the assigned mediator and the parties shall have the form set forth in Appendix F and shall set forth the terms of the engagement, including, but not limited to, a specific enumeration of the pro bono hours, the parties' option to continue mediation on a specific fee basis after the pro bono hours have been spent, confidentiality, disclosure of conflicts of interest, and the incorporation by reference of the Mediation Program local rules. The mediation agreement shall be fully signed before the commencement of the mediation session.
- C. Timing and Scheduling the Mediation.
1. Parties Duty to Determine Mediator Conflicts of Interest and to Deliver Documents to the Mediator. Within 20 days of receiving the Notice Referral to mediation, the parties shall confer with the assigned mediator, to determine whether conflicts of interest exist. They shall also deliver a complete copy of their Case Management Statements to the mediator.
  2. Scheduling by Mediator. Promptly after being appointed to a case, the parties shall contact the mediator and discuss the timing of scheduling mediation. Counsel shall then confer with their clients and each other, and counsel representing plaintiff shall then

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inform the mediator of potential dates that are available to the parties and their counsel. The mediator shall then fix the date and place of the mediation within the deadlines set forth by these rules and within their scheduling needs. Counsel shall respond promptly to and cooperate fully with the mediator with respect to scheduling the mediation session.

3. **Deadline for Conducting Mediation.** Unless otherwise ordered, the mediation shall be completed at least 30 days prior to the parties next Case Management Conference or Mandatory Settlement Conference.

**D. Written Mediation Statements.**

1. **Time for Submission.** No later than 5 calendar days before the first mediation session, each party shall submit directly to the mediator, and shall serve on all other parties, a written Mediation Statement.
2. **Prohibition Against Filing.** Mediation statements shall not be filed with the Court.
3. **Content of Statement.** The statements shall be concise, include any information that may be useful to the mediator, and shall:
  - a. Identify, by name and title or status of, the persons(s) with decision-making authority, who, in addition to counsel, will attend the mediation as representative(s) of the party, and persons connected with a party opponent (including an insurer representative) whose presence might substantially improve the utility of the mediation or the prospects for settlement;
  - b. Describe briefly the substance of the suit addressing the party's view of the issues and liability of damages and discussing the key evidence;
  - c. Identify the discovery or motions that promise to contribute most to equipping the parties for meaningful settlement negotiations;
  - d. Describe the history and current status of any settlement negotiations and provide any other information about any interests or considerations not described elsewhere in the statement that might be pertinent to settlement; and
  - e. Include copies of documents likely to make the mediation more productive or improve settlement prospects.

- E. Contact with Mediator before the Mediation.** Before the mediation, the mediator may allow the parties to submit an additional confidential written statement for the mediator only, or may discuss the case in confidence with a party and the party's lawyer during a telephone conversation. The mediator shall not disclose any party's confidential communications without the party's permission.

**F. Attendance at the Mediation Session.**

1. **Parties.** All named parties and their counsel are required to attend the mediation session and participate in good faith. This requirement reflects the Court's view that the principal values of mediation include affording litigants the opportunity to articulate directly to other litigants and a neutral mediator their positions and arguments and to be

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heard first hand. Mediation also enables parties to collaborate in the search for mutually agreeable solutions.

- a. A person with authority to settle the case must be present at the mediation.
  - b. Corporation or Other Entity. A party other than a natural person (e.g., a corporation or an association) satisfies this attendance requirement if represented by a person (other than outside counsel) who has authority to settle and who is knowledgeable about the facts of the case.
  - c. Government Entity. A unit or agency of government satisfies this attendance requirement if represented by a person who has, to the greatest extent feasible, authority to settle, and who is knowledgeable about the facts of the case, the governmental unit's position, and the procedures and policies under which the governmental unit decides whether to accept proposed settlements. If the action is brought by a governmental entity on behalf of one or more individuals, at least one such individual also shall attend.
2. Counsel. Each party shall be accompanied at the mediation by the lawyer who will be primarily responsible for handling the trial of the matter.
  3. Insurers. Insurer representatives who are necessary are required to attend in person.
  4. Request to be Excused. Only the assigned mediator may excuse a party from the mediation. A person who is required to attend mediation may be excused from attending in person only after demonstrating to the mediator that his or her personal attendance would impose an extraordinary or otherwise unjustifiable hardship. Any party requesting to be excused must contact the mediator at least 5 days in advance of the scheduled mediation to arrange how the party will be able to participate without appearing in person. All arrangements must be approved by the assigned mediator.
  5. Participation by Telephone. A person excused from appearing in person at the mediation session shall be available to participate by telephone.
  6. Failure to comply with this rule may result in an award of attorney fees or sanctions pursuant to California Rules of Court 2.30 and Code of Civil Procedure section 128.5.

**G. Procedure at Mediation.**

1. Procedure. The mediation shall be informal. Mediators shall have discretion to structure the mediation to maximize the benefits of the process.
2. Separate Caucuses. The mediator may hold separate, private caucuses with each side or each lawyer or, if the parties agree, with the clients only. The mediator may not disclose communications made during such caucuses to another party or counsel without the consent of the party who made the communication.

**H. Confidentiality.**

1. Confidential Treatment. Except as provided in subdivision 2 below entitled Limited Exceptions to Confidentiality, the mediator, all counsel and the parties, and any other persons attending the mediation shall treat all statements made at the session, and

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documents prepared for and created at the session as “confidential information”. The confidential information shall not be:

- a. disclosed to anyone not involved in the litigation;
  - b. disclosed to the Court; or
  - c. used for any purpose, including impeachment, in any pending or future proceeding in this Court.
2. Limited Exceptions to Confidentiality. This rule does not prohibit:
- a. disclosures as may be stipulated by all parties and the mediator;
  - b. a report to or any inquiry by the Court regarding a possible violation of these Mediation Program rules;
  - c. any participant or the mediator from responding to an appropriate request for information duly made by the persons authorized by the Court to monitor or evaluate the Court’s Mediation program; or
  - d. disclosures as are otherwise required by law.
3. Confidentiality Agreement. The mediator may ask the parties and all persons attending the mediation to sign a confidentiality agreement on a form provided by the Court or included in the Mediation Agreement utilized by the Mediator.
- I. Follow Up. At the close of the mediation session, the mediator and the parties shall jointly determine whether it would be appropriate to schedule a follow up session. The follow up could include, but need not be limited to, written or telephonic reports that the parties might make to one another or to the mediator, the exchange of specified kinds of information, or another mediation session.
- J. Certification of Session. Within 10 days of the close of each mediation session the mediator shall report to the Court on the status of the mediation by filing with the Court the STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT OR NONAGREEMENT (ADR-100) [Appendix G].
- K. Membership on the Mediator Panel.
1. The Court has established an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee pursuant to California Rules of Court 10.782 and 10.783. The Committee is responsible for overseeing the ADR programs for general civil cases, including the responsibilities specified in Rule 3.813(b) relating to the court’s Judicial arbitration program.
  2. The Court shall maintain a panel of mediators. The ADR committee shall review applications from potential mediators, evaluations of panel members, and make recommendations to the Supervising Civil Judge on the designation of panel mediators. The ADR committee shall designate the panel, and may add or remove mediators from the panel at any time.
  3. Any person with a juris doctor degree who has completed the training required by the Dispute Resolution Program Act for mediators may apply to the ADR Committee for

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membership on the Court directed mediation panel. Applications are due by October 1 each year. Applications are available on the Court's website and should be submitted to the ADR Administrator at the Monterey County Superior Court. If the ADR Committee determines that the applicant is qualified for membership on the Mediation Panel, the ADR Committee shall add the applicant's name to the list of members by January 1 of the following year. Mediators on the courts' mediation panel must follow the processes in the Court's Mediator Manual available on the Court's public website.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Subd. f (6) Added and Rule Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

L. Procedures for Handling Complaint about Court-Program Mediators

1. Application. The rules in this chapter establish the court's procedures for receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints about mediators in the court's mediation program for general civil cases, as required by rule 3.868 of the California Rules of Court. Nothing in these rules should be interpreted in a manner inconsistent with rules 3.865–3.862 of the California Rules of Court or as limiting the court's inherent or other authority, in its sole and absolute discretion, to determine who may be included on or removed from its list of mediators or who may be recommended, selected, appointed, or compensated as a mediator by the court. These rules also do not limit the court's authority to follow other procedures or take other actions to ensure the quality of mediators who serve in the court's mediation program in contexts other than when addressing a complaint. The failure to follow a requirement or procedure in these rules will not invalidate any action taken by the court in addressing a complaint.
2. Definitions. As used in this chapter:
  - a. "The rules of conduct" means the Rules of Conduct for Mediators in Court-Connected Mediation Programs for Civil Cases set out in rules 3.850–3.860 of the California Rules of Court.
  - b. "Court-program mediator" means a mediator who:
    - i. Has agreed to be included on the court's list or panel of mediators for general civil cases and is notified by the court or the parties that he or she has been selected to mediate a case within the court's mediation program; or
    - ii. Has agreed to mediate a general civil case in the court's mediation program after being notified by the court or the parties that he or she was recommended, selected, or appointed by the court or will be compensated by the court to mediate that case.
  - c. "Inquiry" means an unwritten communication presented to the court's complaint coordinator indicating that a mediator may have violated a provision of the rules of conduct.
  - d. "Complaint" means a written communication presented to the court's complaint coordinator indicating that a mediator may have violated a provision of the rules of conduct.
  - e. "Complainant" means the person who makes or presents a complaint.

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- f. "Complaint coordinator" means the person designated by the Supervising Civil Judge to receive complaints and inquiries about the conduct of mediators.
- g. "Complaint proceeding" means all of the proceedings that take place as part of presenting, receiving, reviewing, responding to, investigating, and acting on any specific inquiry or complaint.
- h. "Mediation communication" means any statement that is made or any writing that is prepared for the purpose of, in the course of, or pursuant to a mediation or a mediation consultation, as defined in Evidence Code section 1115, and includes any communications, negotiations, and settlement discussions between participants in the course of a mediation or a mediation consultation.

3. Confidentiality.

- a. Preserving the confidentiality of mediation communications.

All complaint proceedings will be conducted in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of mediation communications, including but not limited to the confidentiality of any communications between the mediator and individual mediation participants or subgroups of mediation participants.

- b. Confidentiality of complaint proceedings.

All complaint proceedings will occur in private and will be kept confidential. No information or records concerning the receipt, investigation, or resolution of an inquiry or a complaint will be open to the public or disclosed outside the course of the complaint proceeding except as provided in rule 3.871(d) of the California Rules of Court or as otherwise required by law.

4. Submission of inquiries and complaints to the complaint coordinator.

All inquiries and complaints should be submitted or referred to the complaint coordinator.

5. Addressing inquiries.

If the complaint coordinator receives an inquiry, the coordinator must inform the person making the inquiry that the complaint procedure provides for investigation of written complaints only and that the person should submit a written complaint if he or she wants the court to conduct an investigation or take action. If the person does not submit a complaint, the complaint coordinator may prepare a written summary of the inquiry.

6. Acknowledgment and preliminary review of complaints.

- a. Acknowledgment of complaints.

When the complaint coordinator receives a complaint, the coordinator will send the complainant a written acknowledgment of this receipt.

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b. Preliminary review of complaints.

- i. The complaint coordinator will review each complaint to determine whether it warrants investigation or can be promptly, informally, and amicably resolved or closed. The coordinator may:
  - a) Informally contact the complainant to obtain clarification or additional information or to provide information that may address the complainant's concern.
  - b) Communicate informally with the mediator to obtain the mediator's perspectives.
- ii. If it appears to the complaint coordinator that the mediator may have violated a provision of the rules of conduct, the complaint coordinator must inform the mediator about the complaint and give the mediator an opportunity to provide an informal response.
- iii. The complaint coordinator may close a complaint without initiating an investigation if:
  - a) The complaint is withdrawn by the complainant; or
  - b) The complainant, the mediator, and the complaint coordinator have agreed on a resolution to the complaint.
- iv. With the consent of the Presiding Judge or the Supervising Civil Judge's designated judicial officer, the complaint coordinator may close a complaint without initiating an investigation if:
  - a) No violation of the rules of conduct appears to have occurred or the complaint is without sufficient merit to warrant an investigation; or
  - b) The conduct alleged would constitute a very minor violation of the rules of conduct, the coordinator has discussed the complaint with the mediator, and the mediator has provided an acceptable explanation or response.

c. Notification of closure

If the complaint coordinator closes a complaint without initiating an investigation, the coordinator must send the complainant notice of this action.

7. Appointing an investigator or a complaint committee.

The Supervising Civil Judge will appoint an investigator who has experience as a mediator and is familiar with the rules of conduct, or a complaint committee that includes at least one such individual, to investigate and make recommendations concerning any complaint that is not resolved or closed by the complaint coordinator as a result of the preliminary review.

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8. Investigations.

- a. Application. The procedures in this rule apply only if a complaint is not resolved or closed through the preliminary review or if the complaint coordinator initiates an investigation under c.
- b. Referral of a complaint for investigation. If a complaint is not closed as a result of the preliminary review, the complaint coordinator will refer it to the investigator or complaint committee for investigation.

The complaint coordinator will provide the investigator or complaint committee with a summary of the preliminary review that includes:

- i. A copy of the complaint;
- ii. A copy or summary of any response from the mediator;
- iii. A list of any violation of the rules of conduct that it appears may have occurred; and
- iv. Copies of any previous complaints about the mediator and any written summaries of inquiries that are relevant to the current complaint.

Initiation by the complaint coordinator. The complaint coordinator may initiate an investigation based on information received from any source, including an inquiry, indicating that a mediator may have violated a provision of the rules of conduct. To initiate the investigation, the complaint coordinator must refer the information received to an investigator or complaint committee with a list of the violations of the rules of conduct that it appears may have occurred.

- d. Mediator's notice and opportunity to respond.
  - i. The investigator or complaint committee must provide the mediator with a copy of the materials provided to the investigator or complaint committee by the committee by the complaint coordinator under (b) or (c).
  - ii. The mediator will be given an opportunity to respond to the complaint and the list of apparent violations.
- e. Preparing report and recommendation.

The investigator or complaint committee will conduct the investigation that the investigator or complaint committee considers appropriate. Thereafter, the investigator or complaint committee will prepare a written report that summarizes the investigation and states the investigator's or complaint committee's recommendation concerning the final decision on the complaint. The investigator or complaint committee may recommend one or more actions that are permissible under rule 3.870 of the California Rules of Court.

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f. Informing mediator of recommendation.

The investigator or complaint committee may inform the mediator of its recommendation and inquire whether the mediator accepts that recommendation. If the mediator accepts the recommendation, the investigator's or complaint committee's report must indicate this.

g. Submitting report and recommendation.

The investigator or complaint committee must submit its report and recommendation to the complaint coordinator. The complaint coordinator must promptly forward a copy of the report and recommendation to the Supervising Civil Judge.

9. Final decision on a complaint that was investigated.

a. Responsibility for final decision.

The Supervising Civil Judge is responsible for making the final decision about the action to be taken on any complaint that was investigated under rule 6.12(l) or for designating another judicial officer or a committee that includes a judicial officer to perform this function.

b. Acting on recommendation.

i. Within 30 days after the investigator's or complaint committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Supervising Civil Judge, the Supervising Civil Judge or designee may submit to the complaint coordinator a decision:

- a) Affirmatively adopting the investigator's or complaint committee's recommendation as the final decision on the complaint; or
- b) Directing a different action that is permissible under rule 3.870 of the California Rules of Court.

ii. If the Supervising Civil Judge or designee does not submit a decision within 30 days after the complaint committee's recommendation is forwarded, as provided in (1), the investigator's or complaint committee's recommendation will become the final decision on the complaint.

c. Notification of final action.

The complaint coordinator must promptly notify the complainant and the mediator in writing of the final action taken by the court on the complaint.

d. Authorized disclosures.

After the decision on a complaint, the Supervising Civil Judge may authorize the public disclosure of information or records concerning the complaint proceeding that do not reveal any mediation communications. The disclosures that may be authorized under this subdivision include the name of a mediator against whom action has been taken, the action taken, and the general basis on which the action was taken. In determining whether to authorize the disclosure of information or

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records under this subdivision, the Supervising Civil Judge or designee should consider the purposes of the confidentiality of complaint proceedings stated in rule 3.871 of the California Rules of Court.

10. Interim suspension pending a final decision on a complaint.

If the preliminary review or the investigation indicates that a mediator may pose a threat of harm to mediation participants or to the integrity of the court's mediation program, the Supervising Civil Judge or the other judicial officer or committee designated by the Supervising Civil Judge to make the final decision about the action to be taken on any complaint may suspend the mediator from the court's panel or list pending final decision on the complaint. The complaint coordinator may make a recommendation to the Supervising Civil Judge or the designee regarding such a suspension.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Subd. f (6) Added and Rule Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective July 1, 2010, Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**6.13 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES**

- A. A mandatory Settlement Conference will be set by the Court approximately thirty (30) days prior to the trial date unless the Court determines that an earlier settlement conference shall be appropriate.
- B. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, at any mandatory Settlement Conference, all parties and/or principals with full legal and monetary authority to settle the case shall be in personal attendance. Insurance representatives shall have full authority to settle the case and shall be fully knowledgeable about the case.
- C. Requests for telephone standby shall be approved only by the Judge. If telephone standby is approved, the requesting person shall be available at the agreed location until excused by the Court regardless of the time in that location. In any case where telephone standby has been approved, the Court may, in its sole discretion, continue the conference and order that person to personally attend.
- D. Per California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1380(c) each party shall prepare, file and serve (5) five court days before the conference, a written statement containing the following information:
  - 1. A complete description of the nature of the case and the facts in support of that parties contentions, including both liability and damages, and indicating those matters that are agreed upon or in dispute;
  - 2. The legal contentions of that party with authorities in support thereof;
  - 3. A listing of all alleged economic damages incurred and the basis therefore; and a statement of those agreed to and/or in dispute;
  - 4. All prior settlement offers and demands;
  - 5. Any perceived impediments to settlement. Settlement Conference statements shall not be confidential unless ordered by the Court.

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- E. The trial attorneys or a fully informed associate with full authority to settle the matter shall attend for each party. Counsel shall be prepared to make a bona fide offer of settlement.
- F. Failure to comply with this rule may result in an award of attorney fees or sanctions pursuant to California Rules of Court 2.30 and Code of Civil Procedure section 128.5.
- G. These rules shall apply to all settlement conferences whether considered mandatory or voluntary.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective July 1, 2010)*

**6.14 TELEPHONE APPEARANCE**

In accordance with the provision of Rule 3.670 of the California Rules of Court, counsel and unrepresented litigants shall have the option of appearing by telephone in any conference or non-evidentiary law and motion hearing, excluding settlement conferences. Teleconferencing is provided through Court Call Service, a private vendor. Arrangements to schedule teleconferencing for a conference or hearing shall be made directly with Court Call Service by calling 1-888-882-6878. A fee will be charged for this service and shall be payable directly to Court Call Service.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective July 1, 2007)*

**6.15 MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

- A. Qualified collection actions (California Rule of Court 3.740) will be assigned to the Court's Case Disposition Calendar. A Non-Appearance Hearing\* will be set thirteen (13) months from the date of filing.

\*Appearance is not required should default judgment or dismissal be entered prior to the date set for hearing

Upon the filing of a response/denial/answer by a defendant(s) the collection action will be changed to a civil fast track/delay reduction case and a Case Management Conference or Mandatory Settlement Conference/Trial Setting Conference will be set within 60-90 days of the filing of the responsive pleading.

- B. Alternative Dispute Resolution. It is the policy of this Court to promote and encourage alternative dispute resolution. In any case where Judicial Arbitration is ordered the parties may stipulate to substitute private arbitration or mediation. In any case where the matter is referred to any form of alternative dispute resolution, including Judicial Arbitration, it shall be finally concluded in no more than 90 days if no other date is set by the Court.
- C. Interpreters. It is the responsibility of the attorney/party to obtain an interpreter if needed for any civil matter. A family member, friend, or the attorney may only interpret (1) in an uncontested matter, (2) with the express consent of the party, (3) with the express statement of the attorney that there is no conflict of interest, and, (4) on being properly sworn.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003, Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Subd. (d) added, Rule Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective July 1, 2012 (Repealed Subd. (b-c)(e), renumbered (d) to (a), (e) to (c))*

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**APPENDIX A**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
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TRIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT AND BRIEF**

**A. FORMAT OF REPORT**

The Trial Management Report and Brief shall provide the information requested below. The Report shall be prepared according to California legal format and shall contain the full case caption. The Report shall be typewritten or computer printed on pleading paper. Failure to file a Report as required or provide all requested information may result in exclusion or limitation of evidence, monetary sanctions, dismissal of the case, striking of pleadings or entry of a default judgment.

All information requested below must be provided or its absence explained. Attachments may be used to provide additional information or to state the positions of each of the parties.

All discovery must be completed prior to trial. Delays will not be granted for the purpose of conducting further discovery except on a showing of good cause, to include but not limited to a showing of why discovery could not reasonably have been completed prior to trial.

The Trial Management Report and Brief shall include the following information.

**B. ATTORNEY AND CASE INFORMATION**

- Case Name:
- Trial Attorneys:
- Plaintiff:
- Telephone:
- Defendant:
- Telephone:
- Additional Parties:

**C. SUMMARY OF THE NATURE OF THE CASE**

The Report shall include a summary of the allegations and supporting facts as contended by each party. It is anticipated that the trial Court shall use this information to acquaint itself with the competing allegations and contentions, the contested factual issues, and to inform the jury as to the nature of the proceedings. The summary shall be non-argumentative and concise.

**D. STATEMENT OF ISSUES, CAUSES OF ACTIONS, AND DEFENSES**

The Report shall include a listing of specific causes of action and defenses as contained in the pleadings.

**E. TRIAL BRIEFS, PRETRIAL MOTIONS, AND MOTIONS IN LIMINE**

The attorneys shall file all trial briefs, as necessary, with the Trial Management Report and Brief. In addition, the Report shall include a list of all requests for judicial notice, pretrial motions, motions in limine, and appropriate points and authorities.

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**F. DISCOVERY**

Each party shall indicate whether discovery is completed. If discovery is not completed, the Report shall indicate why discovery has not been completed and shall specify the specific areas yet to be completed.

**G. STIPULATIONS**

Each party shall list agreed upon stipulations and any matter to which they are willing to stipulate.

**H. EXHIBITS**

The Report shall include a list of all proposed exhibits. Each party shall file a declaration indicating any objections to the exhibits of the opposing parties with a brief statement of reasons. Failure to object to an exhibit shall be deemed a waiver of all objections thereto, and the exhibit may be entered into evidence without further argument. Objections to and editing of medical records shall be accomplished prior to trial, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. All proposed exhibits shall be pre-marked and exchanged and/or reviewed between the parties. Unless otherwise designated by the trial judge, the Plaintiff/Petitioner will mark his or her exhibits using numbers and the Defendant/Respondent will use letters. Exhibits which are not pre-marked and exchanged shall not be admitted in evidence except on a showing of good cause, to include but not limited to, a declaration as to why said exhibit was not so marked and exchanged.

Any and all exhibits (including any demonstrative evidence, charts, posters, etc.) which are to be viewed by the jury before deliberations shall be identified. These exhibits shall be made available for review. If permitted by the Court, it shall be the duty of counsel to arrange for sufficient copies for each juror, enlargement, or viewing by overhead projector.

It is the responsibility of the parties to obtain and make available all equipment necessary to view any demonstrative evidence. Necessary equipment shall be available, set up, and approved by the Court.

All exhibits and other materials offered in evidence or otherwise presented at civil trials, including transcripts of depositions and administrative records, will be returned at the conclusion of trial to the custody of the offering party. The custodial party must maintain all exhibits and other materials in the same condition as received from the clerk until 60 days after a final judgment or dismissal of the entire case is entered.

**I. DISCOVERY MATERIALS**

The Report shall include a list of all depositions intended to be used during trial and any objections thereto. Original, signed depositions to be used during the trial shall be lodged with the courtroom clerk, on the first day of trial. Procedures for presenting the materials during the trial, shall be established by the Court.

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**J. VIDEO DEPOSITIONS**

Parties shall indicate in the Report the intended use of any video depositions. The parties shall review video depositions prior to the preparation of the Trial Management Report and Brief. Objections shall be identified in the Report. The party intending to use a video deposition shall be responsible for editing of any further objections sustained by the Court. The Court shall be provided with an original, signed written transcript of the video deposition.

**K. WITNESSES**

Each party shall prepare a list of witnesses and the general nature of their testimony [e.g., percipient witness, character witness, expert witness on damages, etc.]. No witness, except a witness for purposes of impeachment, who has not been designated as a witness in the list above shall be allowed to testify except on a showing of good cause, to include but not limited to a showing of why that witness was not so designated. Any witness needing any special assistance shall be identified [e.g., interpreter, disabled, etc.].

All witnesses are expected to be available as needed for trial. Any special scheduling problems shall be noted.

**L. VOIR DIRE**

The Report shall indicate the subject areas which the parties wish the Court to inquire into and those subject areas which the parties request to ask questions about themselves. Requests for a juror questionnaire or in camera questioning of a juror as to particular matters shall be indicated in the Report and a copy of the proposed questionnaire attached to the Report.

**M. JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

All proposed instructions shall be lodged with the Court with the Report. However, CACI instructions which are requested without modification may be requested by number. CACI 200 must be completed and modified as it pertains to the particular case. Proposed non-CACI or modified CACI instructions shall be submitted in duplicate. One copy shall be prepared on plain paper, separate from argument or authorities, and shall not indicate by whom the instructions are presented. At the close of evidence, the trial Court will conduct a hearing on instructions to determine the final instructions to be given to the jury.

**N. VERDICT FORMS**

Proposed verdict forms shall be filed with the Report. The verdict forms shall be prepared on plain pleading paper and shall not indicate by whom the verdict forms are presented. The trial Court will conduct a hearing to determine the final form of verdict.

**O. OTHER REQUESTS: [list all additional requests]**

*APPENDIX A, Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Repealed effective July 1, 2010, Appendix C Re-titled Appendix A, effective July 1, 2010, Appendix A Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

*APPENDIX B, CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT, SEE JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORM CM-110 (REV. JANUARY 1, 2009) (APPENDIX B, Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended January 1, 2006)*

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*APPENDIX C, Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2009; 6.15 Appendix C Re-titled Appendix A, effective July 1, 2010)*

*(APPENDIX D; Adopted effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective July 1, 2010, Repealed July 1, 2013)*

*(APPENDIX E, Adopted effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007, Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

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APPENDIX F

MONTEREY COUNTY COURT-DIRECTED MEDIATION PROGRAM

MEDIATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

This Mediation and Confidentiality Agreement is dated \_\_\_\_\_, and entered into by and between the undersigned parties and \_\_\_\_\_, Attorney at Law, who will serve in the capacity of mediator pursuant to this agreement.

**Applicable Law** - This mediation shall be subject to the terms and conditions of [California Evidence Code §§1115-1128](#), and the terms and conditions of the Monterey County Court-Directed Mediation Program Rules, both of which are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth in this mediation agreement,

**Confidentiality** - All statements made in preparation of or during the course of this mediation are privileged settlement discussions, are made without prejudice to any party's legal position, and are undiscoverable and inadmissible for any purpose in any legal, administrative, or other proceeding.

The privileged character of any information is not altered by disclosure to \_\_\_\_\_, the mediator. Disclosure of any statements made to the mediator in confidence, records, reports or other documents received or prepared by the mediator cannot be compelled. The mediator shall not be compelled to disclose or testify in any proceeding of any kind.

**Mediator's Services** – The attorney-mediator's services are offered to the parties on a *pro bono* (no fee) basis for preparation time and two hours of mediation service. See Attachment A for a complete description of *voluntary* fee options after expiration of *pro bono* services.

Signed before the commencement of the mediation by each of the persons whose signatures appear below:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Insert Name of Attorney, Mediator

Date:

Print Name of Party (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Party (1) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (1) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Print Name of Party (2): \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Party (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Party (2) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (2) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Print Name of Party (3): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (3): \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Party (3) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (3) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Print Name of Party (4): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (4): \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Party (4) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party (4) Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

*(APPENDIX E, Adopted effective January 1, 2006)*

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**MEDIATION AGREEMENT**

**ATTACHMENT "A"**

**PRO BONO SERVICES AND VOLUNTARY FEE STRUCTURE**

**MONTEREY COUNTY COURT-DIRECTED MEDIATION PROGRAM**

The Mediation Agreement between (among) the parties and their legal representatives incorporates this Attachment A as an integral component of the Mediation Agreement.

H. PRO BONO MEDIATION – The attorney-mediator is a member of the Monterey County Court-Directed Mediation Program and offers his/her mediation services for no cost subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Preparation time and Scheduling: Volunteer attorney-mediator will offer his/her time necessary to the preparation of, scheduling, and coordination with the parties and their representatives prior to the commencement of the scheduled mediation session(s) as a component of his/her participation in the court-directed program;
2. Mediation Session: Volunteer attorney-mediator offers two (2) hours of his/her time as volunteer attorney-mediator in working with the parties to reach a voluntary settlement (agreement) in their case. The two hours will commence after the parties have signed the Mediation Agreement and at the time of the Mediator's Opening Statement. The two hours will include any necessary breaks, caucuses, recesses, or other intermittent breaks from the formal mediation session, but will not include meal breaks or recess involving a rescheduling of the mediation. The Mediator shall maintain accurate time records and those time records shall be determinative in the calculation of accrued mediation time.

I. VOLUNTARY FEE OPTION - At the expiration of the first two (2) hours of accumulated mediation time, the attorney-mediator may offer to continue the mediation at the rate of \$200/hour to be shared equally by the parties (unless otherwise negotiated to the agreement of all parties and incorporated as a component of the signed mediation agreement). The election of this option is VOLUNTARY and no party shall be compelled to continue with paid mediation unless subject to the parties' voluntary and signed commitment to such fee schedule.

1. Voluntary Waiver by Attorney-Mediator - The volunteer attorney-mediator may waive the imposition of voluntary fee at his/her discretion and subject to the agreement of the parties to continue in the mediation process. This voluntary waiver is subject to the will of the attorney-mediator and may be offered for a finite and defined period of time (e.g., one more hour, two more hours, etc.)
2. After Six hours of Voluntary Compensation at \$200/Hour - After six (6) hours of attorney-mediation compensation at the \$200/hour level that has been agreed to by the parties and their attorneys, the attorney-mediator may at his/her discretion offer to continue the mediation at his/her regular hourly fee subject to the *voluntary* agreement of the parties.

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Coordination of Payment of Agreed to Fees After Expiration of Pro-Bono Services. Should the parties elect to continue with mediation after the expiration of the *pro bono* preparation and two hour mediation, all such financial agreements shall be recorded by the attorney-mediator in the Mediation Agreement or amendment thereto signed by the parties and their attorneys including the volunteer attorney-mediator. Payments shall be made directly to the attorney-mediator and the Court will not oversee the collection of payments. The Court, at its discretion, may postpone trial setting in a case that does not settle in mediation pending full payment of agreed to attorney-mediator fees that remain unpaid.

*(ATTACHMENT A, Adopted effective January 1, 2006)*

*APPENDIX G, STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT OR NONAGREEMENT, SEE JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORM ADR-100 (January 1, 2003)*

*(APPENDIX I, Adopted effective January 1, 2008, Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

*(APPENDIX J, Adopted effective January 1, 2008, Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

*(APPENDIX K: Adopted effective January 1, 2009) (Repealed effective July 1, 2010)*

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APPENDIX H

STIPULATION AND ORDER VACATING AND RESETTING DATES;  
CERTIFICATE OF CONTINUING MEDIATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

_____,  Plaintiff(s),  v.  _____,  Defendant(s).	Case No. M _____  <b>STIPULATION AND ORDER VACATING AND RESETTING DATES; CERTIFICATE OF CONTINUING MEDIATION</b>
--	--

WHEREAS, the initial mediation session in the above-uncaptioned matter has been held in accordance with the Court-Directed Mediation Program rules; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to have a further mediation session in accordance with those rules, and to vacate dates now set to allow that to occur;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between the parties through their respective counsel of record, that the

( ) Case Management Conference date of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Trial date of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Settlement Conference date of \_\_\_\_\_

shall be vacated and reset to a date approximately \_\_\_\_ days thereafter.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Plaintiff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Defendant

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MEDIATOR CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a mediation session was held as set forth above, that the parties have expressed the wish to have a further mediation session, and that I have agreed to hold such a further session.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mediator

ORDER

Upon the stipulation of the parties, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the dates set forth above are vacated, and that the

- ( ) Case Management Conference is reset to \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Trial date is reset to \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Settlement Conference is reset to \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Judge of the Superior Court

*(APPENDIX H, Adopted effective January 1, 2007)*

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**CHAPTER 7**

**LAW AND MOTION**

**7.01 LAW AND MOTION JUDGES**

The Law and Motion Judges shall be designated by the Supervising Civil Judge.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**7.02 LAW AND MOTION CALENDAR**

**A. FAMILY LAW**

Family Law and Motion matters, whether one or two attorney, are heard in Monterey, at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesdays.

Family Law and Motion matters *in pro per* are heard in Monterey, at 9:45 a.m., on Thursdays.

**B. MEET AND CONFER FOR FAMILY LAW AND MOTION MATTERS**

The moving party and the responding party, or his/her attorney if represented, shall each contact one another and attempt to resolve the issues raised in the moving papers prior to the date set for hearing, unless doing so would violate a restraining order in effect.

**C. CIVIL**

Civil Law and Motion matters are heard in Monterey, at 9:00 a.m., on Fridays.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective July 1, 2003, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**7.03 MATTERS INCLUDED**

A. The Family Law and Motion Department shall handle, issue and sign all ex parte orders, orders to show cause, temporary restraining orders, and other family relations related Law and Motion matters.

B. The Civil Law and Motion Departments shall handle issue and sign all orders in Civil Law and Motion matters. All ex parte motions and orders for injunction, writs of mandate, non-family law restraining orders, writs of prohibition, ex parte provisional remedies, such as attachments and appointment of receivers, shall be presented to the Civil Law and Motion Departments.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**7.04 CONTINUANCES**

A. The parties may, with good cause, stipulate to continue a law and motion matter for a reasonable amount of time. The Clerk's Office must be notified of such stipulations at least two court days prior to the scheduled hearing.

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- B. All other requests for stipulated continuances of law and motion matters must be made to the judge scheduled to hear the matter. The request must indicate good cause for the continuance, describe the basis for previous stipulated continuances, if any, and state the position of opposing counsel regarding the continuance. Failure to appear at the date and time set for hearing, may result in the matter being dropped from the calendar.

*(Amended effective July 1, 2003, Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**7.05 LONG MATTERS**

Upon calling a Law and Motion matter, if it should appear that more than 15 minutes will be required, the Court may specially reset the hearing.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998, Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**7.06 UNCONTESTED CIVIL MATTERS**

No uncontested civil matter shall be heard unless application is filed with the Clerk at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance thereof, unless an emergency exists which requires an earlier hearing. No matter shall be set unless all pleadings, stipulations and other necessary papers are on file with the Clerk and default, if required, has been entered.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999)*

**7.07 TELEPHONE APPEARANCE IN CIVIL LAW AND MOTION HEARINGS**

In accordance with the provision of Rule 3.670 of the California Rules of Court, counsel and unrepresented litigants shall have the option of appearing by telephone in any conference or non-evidentiary law and motion hearing, excluding settlement conferences. Teleconferencing is provided through Court Call Service, a private vendor. Arrangements to schedule teleconferencing for a conference or hearing shall be made directly with Court Call Service by calling 1-888-882-6878. A fee will be charged for this service and shall be payable directly to Court Call Service.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective July 1, 2007)*

**7.08 OBTAINING AN EXPEDITED ORDER AFTER HEARING OR STIPULATION**

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2004; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

**7.09 PAGE LIMITATIONS FOR POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**7.10 SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

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**7.11 EX PARTE APPLICATIONS**

Except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules, requests for ex parte relief in civil cases shall be presented in conformance with California Rules of Court Sections 3.1200 through 3.1207 and directed to the attention of the Supervising Judge, Civil Division.

When the required written documents for ex parte relief set forth in Rule 3.1201 have been filed with the court AND delivered to all opposing parties (OR delivery has been excused for exceptional circumstances), the “presentation” of the ex parte application within the meaning of Rule 3.1204(a)(1) shall be deemed complete. When the required written documents for ex parte relief set forth in Rule 3.1201 have been filed with the court BUT delivery of the written documents has not occurred and has not been excused, the “presentation” of the ex parte application within the meaning of Rule 3.1204(a)(1) shall be deemed incomplete.

Completed presentations of ex parte applications shall be set for personal appearance within the time frames of Rule 3.1203. Incomplete presentations of ex parte applications shall be presented to the appropriate judicial officer for consideration for setting of appearance pursuant to Rule 3.1205.

Ex Parte appearances are calendared on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., except when exceptional circumstances are presented in the application for an appearance on a different day and/or time. An ex parte application will be considered without a personal appearance in the cases set forth in CRC section 3.1207 and in those cases where the parties have stipulated that the ex parte application and any opposition may be determined without a personal appearance.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**7.12 EXECUTED ORIGINAL OF AMENDED PLEADING**

The purpose of this Rule is to ensure the court’s records include the executed original of every amended pleading as a free-standing, file-stamped document. As set forth in other rules, amendment of pleadings requiring leave of the court may be made upon the granting of a motion or by stipulation.

- A. If upon motion: In addition to the copy of the proposed amended pleading required by California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1324(a), the moving party must lodge the original executed proposed amended pleading and one additional copy with the court. These documents must not be attached to any other document. These documents may be lodged before, during, or after the hearing on the motion to amend. If the motion to amend is granted, and if the documents were lodged at or before the hearing, the original executed amended pleading will be filed with the court on the date the motion is granted. If the documents are lodged after the hearing, the amended pleading will be file-stamped on the date it is received by the court.
  
- B. If upon stipulation: The proponent of the amended pleading must lodge the original executed proposed amended pleading and one additional copy with the court along with the stipulation. These documents must not be attached to the stipulation or to any other document.

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A self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for return of the copy of the amended pleading must be provided by any party or attorney who does not maintain a folder in the court's drop-box.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 8**

**ATTORNEY FEES - DEFAULT AND UNCONTESTED MATTERS**

**8.01 SCHEDULE OF ATTORNEY FEES**

If the obligation sued upon provides for the recovery of a reasonable attorney's fee, the fee in each default case and in each case where judgment is rendered pursuant to Section 585 (1) of the Code of Civil Procedure, may be fixed pursuant to the following schedule:

<u>Principal Amount of Judgment</u>	<u>Attorney's Fee</u>
Under \$2,000	25 percent
Under \$2,000.01 to \$5,000.00	20 percent or \$500.00 - whichever is greater
\$5,000.01 to \$10,000.00	15 percent or \$1,000.00 – whichever is greater
\$10,000.01 to \$25,000.00	12 percent or \$1,500.00 - whichever is greater

On judgments in excess of \$25,000.00 the attorney's fee may be 10 percent of the principal amount between \$25,000.00 and \$50,000.00, and 5 percent of any additional sum.

Plaintiff shall have the right, in accordance with Section 585 (1) of the Code of Civil Procedure, to have the attorney fee fixed by the Court in an amount different than as set forth above.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**8.02 REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY FEES IN UNLAWFUL DETAINER ACTIONS**

In unusual cases, attorneys may apply to the Court by written motion with supporting documents for fees in excess of the above schedule.

If the obligation sued upon provides for recovery of reasonable attorney fees, the Court may allow a \$450.00 fee to the prevailing party in an unlawful detainer default hearing. In unusual cases, attorneys may apply to the Court, by motion, for increased fees.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

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**CHAPTER 9**

**APPELLATE DEPARTMENT**

**9.01 JURISDICTION**

The Appellate Department of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey has jurisdiction over all appeals and writs in infraction, misdemeanor and limited civil (not small claims) cases arising out of Courts in Monterey County.

General rules applicable to Appellate Department proceedings are set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 8.800, et seq.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2003, Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.02 JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENT AND SESSIONS**

The Presiding Appellate Judge shall supervise the business of the department. All motions, including ex parte applications for orders, shall be presented to the Presiding Appellate Judge. The Presiding Appellate Judge may act on routine matters, or may schedule a motion or other matter for hearing before the panel at his or her discretion.

The panel is composed of three judges, including the Presiding Appellate Judge. A fourth judge is assigned as an alternate appellate panel member.

Traffic infraction appeals shall be (1) set for hearing every fourth Thursday and (2) heard and decided by the Presiding Appellate Judge or his or her designee from the appellate panel.

Limited civil and misdemeanor appeals shall be (1) set for hearing every first Thursday and (2) heard and decided by the appellate panel.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**9.03 RECORD ON APPEAL**

A. The court elects to use the original trial court file in lieu of a clerk's transcript. (California Rules of Court, rules 8.833, 8.863, 8.914.)

B. Limited civil, misdemeanor and infraction matters.

The trial court judge shall not order that a transcript be prepared as the record of oral proceedings in lieu of correcting a proposed statement on appeal. (California Rules of Court, rules 8.837(d)(6)(B), 8.869(d)(6)(B); 8.916(d)(6)(B).)

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C. Misdemeanor and infraction matters.

Where appellant elects to use a reporter's transcript or a transcript of the official electronic recording of the proceedings as the oral record on appeal, and the appellant is the People or was represented by appointed counsel in the trial court or the Trial Court has determined that the defendant is indigent and orders that the defendant receive the transcript without cost, prior to the preparation of such transcript, a determination shall be made by the Trial Court as to what portion of the oral record is required for proper determination of the appeal. Except in appeals covered by CRC, rules 8.867 or 8.920, the oral record shall include the following items unless the parties have filed a stipulation under CRC, rules 8.860(b) or 8.910(b), or the Trial Court has ordered that any of these items is not required for proper determination of the appeal:

1. The oral proceedings on the entry of any plea other than a not guilty plea
2. The oral proceedings on any motion in limine;
3. The oral proceedings at trial, but excluding the voir dire examination of jurors and any opening statement;
4. Any jury instructions given orally (misdemeanors only);
5. Any oral communication between the court and the jury or any individual juror (misdemeanors only);
6. Any oral opinion of the court;
7. The oral proceedings on any motion for new trial;
8. The oral proceedings at sentencing, granting or denying probation, or other dispositional hearing;
  - a. If the appellant is the defendant, the reporter's transcript must also contain:
  - b. The oral proceedings on any defense motion denied in whole or in part except motions for disqualification of a judge;
  - c. Any closing arguments; and
  - d. Any comment on the evidence by the court to the jury (misdemeanors only).(California Rules of Court, rules 8.865, 8.866, 8.918 and 8.919)

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2010; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**9.04 BRIEFS**

The original brief submitted for filing must be accompanied by three copies.

*(Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended January 1, 2010)*

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**9.05 ORAL ARGUMENT**

A party who is not present at calendar call is deemed to have waived oral argument unless the party has advised the clerk in advance of a delay.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.03 PRACTICE POINTERS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.04 NOTICE OF APPEALS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.05 STAYS PENDING APPEAL**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.06 PLEADINGS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.07 RECORD ON APPEAL**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2009; Amended and Renumbered to 9.03 effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.08 AUGMENTATION OF TRANSCRIPT**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.09 EVIDENTIARY MATTERS AND EXHIBITS – CIVIL APPEALS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.10 EVIDENTIARY MATTERS – CRIMINAL APPEALS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

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**9.11 EXTENSIONS OF TIME**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998) Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.12 BRIEFS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended and Renumbered to 9.04 effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.13 ORAL ARGUMENT**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended and Renumbered to 9.05 effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.14 OPINION AND JUDGMENT**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.15 REHEARING AND/OR CERTIFICATION**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.16 MOTIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.17 INFRACTIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2006; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.18 WRIT OF SUPERSEDEAS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.19 WRITS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

**9.20 APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN CRIMINAL CASES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

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**9.21 PUBLICATION**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Repealed effective January 1, 2010)*

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**CHAPTER 10**

**FAMILY LAW DEPARTMENT**

**10.01 LAW AND MOTION**

- A. Family Law and Motion Attorney and Pro Per Calendars. There shall be a Family Law and Motion Attorney and a Pro Per Calendar which shall be heard at the time and place set by the Court.
1. Wednesday's Family Law and Motion Cases: The court shall routinely maintain, update, and post a calendar online and on the court bulletin board identifying the judge assigned to hear the family law cases scheduled on Wednesday's Family Law and Motion calendar in Department 13. All such cases are hereby assigned to be heard by the Presiding Family Law Judge unless a different judge is designated on the posted calendar for a particular Wednesday, in which event, the designated judge is hereby assigned to hear those cases as of the date indicated on the posted calendar.
  2. The posted calendar of assignments shall reflect the date of posting each updated assignment and the Superior Court Clerk shall maintain a record of each update and when it was posted.
  3. The assignment of alternate judges to hear the Wednesday Family Law and Motion Calendar shall be made by the Presiding Judge, the Supervising Civil Judge, the Presiding Family Law Judge, or a judicial delegate.
  4. Family Law Trials and Special Hearings: All cases set by the Presiding Family Law Judge for special hearing or trial is hereby assigned to that judge for said special hearing or trial. The Presiding Family Law Judge shall schedule said special hearing or trial around his or her planned absences such as vacation and conferences. If, in the discretion of the Presiding Judge, the Supervising Civil Court Judge, the Presiding Family Law Judge or a judicial delegate, exigent circumstances in the case require a hearing or trial when the Presiding Family Law Judge is unavailable (e.g., because of pressing custody issues) the hearing or trial may be otherwise scheduled. In such event, a judge shall be assigned to hear such special hearing or trial and the parties shall be promptly notified of the assignment.
  5. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the assignment of a family law case to a judge for all purposes whenever in the discretion of the Presiding Judge, the Supervising Civil Court Judge, the Presiding Family Law Judge, or a judicial delegate, one judge should hear the case for all purposes, such as in a particularly complex case.
  6. Meet and Confer. The moving party and the responding party, or his/her attorney if represented, shall each contact the other and attempt to resolve the issues raised in the moving papers prior to the date set for hearing, unless to do so would violate a restraining order then in effect.
  7. Continuances The parties may, with good cause, stipulate once to a continuance for a reasonable amount of time. Any subsequent requests for continuances are subject to approval by the Family Court Judge. All requests must be submitted to the research

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attorney for the Family Court at least a full 48 hours prior to the date of hearing. The request must indicate good cause for the continuance and state the position of the opposing party regarding the continuance as well as the requested date.

**B. TIMELY FILING OF PAPERS**

1. The timely filing of papers must conform to the Rules of Court and the Code of Civil Procedure. (California Rule of Court 3.1300; 5.15; 5.20; 5.21; 5.22; California Code of Civil Procedure section 1005; 1013; Family Code section 242). (*Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective January 1, 2007, Amended effective July 1, 2012*)
2. Orders Shortening Time. Orders Shortening Time should not be requested unless there is a hardship or emergency requiring prompt action. All requests must be accompanied by a written declaration establishing GOOD CAUSE. Notice of the request must be given to opposing counsel, if any, within 24 hours, except for good cause. A declaration must be submitted stating the fact of notice or good cause for its absence.
3. Responsive and Reply Documents. Responsive and Reply documents must be filed and served as follows:
  - a. Motions and Orders to Show Cause without Temporary Orders Attached - at least 9 court days prior to the hearing for Responsive Declarations and 5 court days prior to the hearing for Reply Documents. (*Amended effective January 1, 2006*).
  - b. Orders to Show Cause with Temporary Orders Attached - 5 court days prior to the hearing for Responsive Declarations and 2 court days prior to hearing for Reply Declarations.
  - c. Orders Shortening Time - The Responsive and Reply Declarations must be filed and served as set forth in the order.

At the time of the hearing, the court may refuse to consider Responsive or Reply documents which are not filed and served within the time frames specified in this rule.

**C. EX-PARTE APPLICATIONS**

The timely filing of papers must conform to the California Rules of Court and Code of Civil Procedure as referenced in the authority stated herein. (California Rules of Court 1.10(a); 1.10(b); 2.30; 3.1200 et seq.; Code of Civil Procedure section 575.2)

**D. SPECIAL SETTINGS**

All matters requiring more than 20 minutes must be specially set. Calendaring of special sets shall be done by a family law bench officer. A request for a special set hearing must be calendared by motion or, if a matter is already set on the Law and Motion Calendar, the request should be made at the time already scheduled for hearing. Advance notice should be given to the Court that a special set will be requested by written declaration if possible. Requests for special sets should not be made unless the matter is ready to be heard and should include a time estimate regarding the length of hearing requested. Continuances of special settings will not be granted except upon exceptional good cause.

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**E. USE OF DECLARATIONS**

1. In all law and motion matters, declarations shall be submitted with pleadings. Testimony shall also be received at hearing or trial unless the Court makes a finding that there is good cause to refuse to receive live testimony under Family Code 217, as set forth in California Rule of Court 5.119. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*
2. Evidence or Argument. Evidence or argument will be heard only on issues clearly raised in timely filed pleadings. Argument, if requested by the Court at the time of hearing, shall address points of law. Timely filed declarations shall be considered the evidence submitted.
3. Review Hearing Declarations/Supplemental Declarations.
  - a. If a matter is set for a review hearing, a declaration describing the current status of the matter should be submitted by each party as set forth in the next paragraph. If no declaration is filed, the matter may be dropped at the discretion of the court.
  - b. Declarations for review hearings must be filed and served no less than five (5) court days prior to the date set for review-hearing.
  - c. The court may not consider declarations or reply declarations which are not filed and received within the time frame specified in this rule.

**F. ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPERT WITNESS FEES**

Orders for attorney fees, costs or expert witness fees by one party from the other will not be deferred until the time of trial except upon agreement or a showing of GOOD CAUSE. It is the policy of the Court to support each party's right to be adequately represented pending trial. No temporary award of attorney fees or costs shall be made without a showing of need and ability to pay, and until sufficient proof of each party's income has been filed with the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Rule 10.01.B4 and B5 Repealed, Amended effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective January 1, 2011, Amended 10.01.A1, A3, C and E3b effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**10.02 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES**

**A. MANDATORY V. NON-MANDATORY**

All long cause (more than 1 day in length) Family Law trials will be set for Mandatory Settlement Conference by the Court. Upon request of both parties or court order, short cause trials (one day or less in length) shall be set for settlement conference. With agreement of counsel and advance permission of the Court, litigants and/or their attorneys may attend settlement conferences telephonically. Arrangements shall be made at least five (5) court days in advance.

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**B. MEET AND CONFER**

Counsel shall confer with opposing counsel, or opposing party if that party is unrepresented by counsel, no less than five (5) court days prior to the first date set for settlement conference. Counsel shall inform the Court of all issues that can be determined by stipulation and those remaining for determination by the Court in the Settlement Conference Statement filed with the Court. The Settlement Conference Statement shall also state that the parties have complied with this rule. Non-compliance may result in the matter being dropped from calendar.

**C. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

1. Service. Settlement Conference Statements shall be served and filed with the Clerk of the Court no later than five (5) court days preceding the Settlement Conference hearing. Failure to comply with this rule may result in an award of attorney fees or sanctions pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2.30, and Code of Civil Procedure section 575.2. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*
2. Contents. The statement must set forth the following information as to the party filing, as well as to the opposing party, to the extent known or contended:
  - a. Separate Property. List each item of separate property. If characterization of property is uncontested, list only its current market value. If characterization of property as separate is contested, list the date it was acquired, the basis upon which it is claimed that it is separate rather than community property, the current market value, the nature, extent and terms of payment of any encumbrance against the property and the manner in which title thereto is presently vested.
  - b. Community Property. List each item of community property. If characterization of property is uncontested, list only its current market value and the nature, extent and terms of payment of any encumbrance against the property. If characterization of property as community is contested, list the date it was acquired, the basis upon which it is claimed as community rather than separate property, the current market value, the nature, extent and terms of payment of any encumbrance against the property and the manner in which title thereto is presently vested.
  - c. Funds Held by Others. To the extent that either separate property or community property consists of funds held by others, such as insurance policies, pensions, profit sharing, or other trust funds, the statement shall fully identify the policy or fund, its present cash value and any terms or conditions imposed upon withdrawal of such values.
  - d. Tracing. If a segregation of community property and separate property interests in a single asset is to be an issue in the case, the statement shall set forth in detail, including dates, values and dollar amounts, the transactions which form the basis upon which the tracing is to be proven.
  - e. Current Obligations. Separately list all debts and obligations of the parties which constitute liabilities of the community and debts and obligations which are the separate liabilities of the respective parties. Specify the identity of the creditor, the date upon which the debt was incurred, the balance currently due thereon, the terms of payment and the security, if any, held by the creditor.

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- f. Proposal for Settlement. Set forth a proposal for settlement, including proposals regarding custody, visitation, division of the community property and liabilities, reimbursements, credits, payment of costs and payment of attorney's fees. In addition, specify each party's contentions as to the amount and duration of child and spousal support. The purpose of this rule is to promote amicable settlement and thorough preparation of domestic relations matters. Full disclosure of all contested issues will aid the court in suggesting a fair settlement, ease tension between the parties and help to provide a more meaningful resolution. Counsel should confer prior to the time set for settlement conference or trial in order that, to the fullest extent possible, issues can be determined by stipulation and those remaining for determination by the Court can be clearly delineated.
3. Declaration of Disclosure. A Declaration Regarding Service of Preliminary and Final Declaration of Disclosure should be filed by each party verifying that there has been an exchange of information regarding assets, liabilities and income as required in Family Code section 2100-2110.
4. Current Income and Expense Declaration. A CURRENT Income and Expense Declaration should be filed concurrently with the Settlement Conference Statement. The parties' last three month's earnings and deduction statements shall be attached.
5. Setting at the Court's Discretion. At the Court's discretion, settlement conferences, case management conferences, and trial setting conferences may be set by the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2007, Amended Subd. C effective July 1, 2012)*

**10.03 CHILD AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT**

**A. CHILD SUPPORT**

The amount of child support awarded will be determined according to the guidelines set forth in Family Code Section 4050 et seq. The percentage of time each party spends with the child(ren) shall be calculated by counting the number of hours that the children spend with each party divided by the total hours for the time period in question.

1. Credit for Time Spent with Others. The parent who bears primary responsibility for the child even during periods when the child is with others, will be attributed with the hourly credit for that time.

**B. SPOUSAL SUPPORT**

Temporary spousal support will ordinarily be determined in accordance with Santa Clara County's Temporary Spousal Support Guidelines; the Court may order non-Guideline temporary spousal support upon a showing of good cause. The Court may order a party to pay for the permanent support of the other party an amount, and for a period of time that the court determines just and reasonable, based upon the standard of living established during the marriage, taking into consideration the factors specified in Family Code section 4320.

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**C. FINANCIAL DECLARATIONS**

Income and Expense Declarations must be filled out completely by both parties. The last three months' earning and deduction statements shall be attached. A current Income and Expense Declaration must be on file any time there is a request for a monetary award from the other party.

**D. DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

All cases in which the Department of Child Support Services is involved in establishing or enforcing child support shall be set on the Department of Child Support Services Calendar when appropriate.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective July 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Retitled Subd. C effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**10.04 OFFICE OF FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR**

The Family Law Facilitator shall perform the duties listed in Family Code Section 10004, and may perform any and all of the duties listed in Family Law Section 10005 as directed by the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2000)*

**10.05 CO-PARENTING WORKSHOP**

*(Adopted effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective January 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2009; Repealed effective July 1, 2012)*

**10.06 MEDIATION OF CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION DISPUTES**

**A. PREAMBLE**

Child custody and visitation mediation is a program administered by the Office of Family Court Services.

Mediation is provided in a number of different proceedings involving the custody and visitation of a minor. These proceedings include: 1) Dissolution and Legal Separation (Family Code section 3170), 2) Stepparent Visitation (Family Code sections 3171, 3172, 3185); 3) Grandparent Visitation (Family Code sections 3171, 3176, 3185); 4) Domestic Violence (Family Code section 3170, 3181, 3182); 5) Paternity (Family Code section 3172,7600 et seq.); 6) Child Support Enforcement (Family Code, section 17404); 7) Termination of Parental Rights ( Family Code section 7660.) and 8 ) Guardianships (Probate Code sections 1500 et seq.).

**B. MANDATORY MEDIATION**

Family Code sections 3170 and 3175 require that when it appears on the face of a petition or application or other pleading for an order or modification of an order that custody, temporary custody, or visitation rights are contested, the matter must be set for mediation of the contested

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issues prior to or concurrent with the setting of the matter for hearing. The purpose of mediation is the reduction of acrimony which may exist between the parties, the development of an agreement assuring the child's close and continuing contact with both parents, and to effect a settlement of the issue of visitation rights of all parties that is in the best interests of the minor (Family Code section 3161).

**C. COST OF MEDIATION**

There is no direct cost to either party for the use of the Family Court Services' Mediation Program. The program is paid for by a portion of the filing fee for dissolution actions and a portion of the cost of a marriage license. The parties are free to retain a mediator of their own choice who is not employed or contracted by the Court and encouraged to attempt to resolve the dispute without court intervention. Mediation services provided by the Court are limited and should be used only when there is an actual dispute that cannot be resolved by the parties themselves or with the assistance of their lawyers. The Court will not pay for the services of an independent mediator or family counselor unless such services are provided through the Court. Failure to reschedule or cancel timely as stated in 10.06 E2 may result in the imposition of a monetary sanction.

**D. TYPES OF MEDIATION**

The court offers Court Connected Mediation and Child Custody Recommending Counseling (recommending mediation). The following sections set forth the general and special rules applicable to Child Custody Recommending Counseling.

**E. GENERAL RULES**

1. Referral of Cases to Mediation. Mediation services are only available where there is a case filed with the Court. If there is no pending action (dissolution, paternity, visitation, guardianship, etc.), no mediation will be scheduled.

In any case in which custody, temporary custody, or visitation is contested, the matter must be referred for mediation. The parties will be required to participate in a Parent Orientation in conjunction with mediation. There will be no final judicial determination of any contested custody or visitation issue until mediation has been completed.

2. How to Refer a Case to Mediation. Mediation referrals are made by contacting the Family Court Services office either by phone or in person, at the following location:

Family Court Services Office  
1200 Aguajito Rd.  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Monterey: (831) 647-5800 Extension 3009  
Salinas: (831) 775-5400 Extension 3009

In order to accept a referral and schedule mediation the following information must be provided:

- a. the case number and case name and the case number of any related cases (such as child support or domestic violence actions);

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- b. if there is a Domestic Violence Restraining Order in place or whether there is an allegation of domestic violence in the file under penalty of perjury;
- c. the parties' names, their current addresses and daytime telephone numbers; and
- d. the name of a party's attorney if there is one.
- e. any information which would affect scheduling such as parties coming from out of town, or the need for an interpreter.

Rescheduling of a mediation appointment is discouraged. However, if there is a compelling reason, an appointment may be rescheduled if the parties contact Family Court Services at least five (5) calendar days before the appointment date and rescheduling will not result in a hearing date being continued.

If the parties wish to cancel a mediation appointment because the dispute has been settled or if both sides agree to cancel the mediation for good reason, at least five (5) calendar days' notice must be given to the Mediation Service to avoid the possibility of sanctions.

The mediators shall review the Court's file in the case prior to mediation to familiarize themselves with existing or temporary orders regarding custody and visitation. If there are other written agreements relating to custody or visitation which are not in the Court file and which would assist the mediator, for example orders from another jurisdiction, copies should be delivered to the mediation service prior to the first session.

3. Mediation Where OSC or Motion Pending. If mediation has not been completed nor an agreement reached prior to the date set for hearing or trial of the issue, the Court will refer the case for mediation at the hearing. The Court may make temporary custody or visitation orders, or continue existing orders pending completion of mediation. All temporary orders pending mediation are without prejudice and should not be cited as a basis for permanent orders. Before arranging mediation the parties or their attorneys should have discussed custody and visitation issues, or made reasonable attempts to do so, and concluded that the issues cannot be resolved by the parties themselves.

If mediation has not been ordered by the court, a Request for Mediation form describing the nature of the dispute must be submitted by both parties at the time mediation is requested. Counsel will be allowed to phone in the request for mediation and provide the information required on the form on behalf of their client.

The Court may ask the mediator to see the parties at the time of hearing (or within 48 hours if orders are requested ex parte) to negotiate temporary orders until further mediation can be scheduled to resolve any dispute related to permanent custody and visitation orders. Attorneys and parties are urged to arrange for mediation sufficiently in advance of the hearing to allow it to be completed prior to the date of the hearing.

Family Court Services will attempt to accommodate parties who are coming from out of the county or state if given sufficient advance notice. If a case requires mediation and one of the parties resides out of the county or state, the mediation may be scheduled preceding or following the hearing so that disputed issues may be resolved without requiring the out-of-county or out-of-state parent to make additional trips to Monterey

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County. Parties are not to expect a mediation appointment on the day of the hearing without prior contact with the Family Court Services. Mediation by phone may be requested in exceptional circumstances and will be scheduled only upon Court order. The party who requested the telephonic mediation shall bear the telephone charges.

4. Ex-Parte Requests for Mediation. Any ex parte requests for mediation orders shall be accompanied by a declaration establishing good cause for the ex parte request. The declaration shall detail the existence of a custody or visitation dispute and what efforts, if any, have been made to reach an agreement and state specific reasons why an order for mediation is sought prior to service and without notice.

Specific appointment dates will not be given ex parte, as there is no certainty that a party will be timely served. If an ex parte application for mediation orders is approved, the applicant without counsel must deliver a completed Request for Mediation form to the Family Court Services office or provide the required information by telephone. An attorney should contact Family Court Services as soon as service has been made to start the scheduling process.

5. Mediation with No Court Hearing. It is not necessary that an Order to Show Cause or a Notice of Motion for custody or visitation be set for hearing in order to refer a case to mediation. If no OSC or motion is scheduled, there must be an actual dispute, the parties must have attempted to resolve the dispute themselves, and there must be an express agreement of both parties to enter into mediation. Even though no hearing is pending, there must be a petition or complaint filed with the court. (This section does not apply to Child Custody Recommending Counseling which is only available by court order.) Parents may voluntarily attend mediation once every twelve (12) months without a court order or hearing set.
6. Resolution of Other Issues Pending Mediation of Child Custody and Visitation Disputes. The Court may make orders on issues such as spousal support and child support pending the completion of mediation. Orders for temporary child support will generally be based upon the custody and visitation arrangement at the time of the hearing. Such orders will be made without prejudice to the rights of either party with respect to the issues of custody and visitation.
7. Child custody and visitation mediation services will be provided in child support actions when both parents are parties to the action.
8. There is a ten day rescission period available to address any objections to an agreement reached in Court Connected Mediation. Child Custody Recommending Counseling reports are to be provided to the parties and/or their counsel ten days in advance of hearing on the receipt of the report.
9. Non-English Speaking Participants. In the event one or both of the parties is not fluent in English, Family Court Services will attempt to provide a mediator or interpreter to conduct the mediation in the spoken language of both participants. If an interpreter is required, the cost of the interpreter shall be paid by the parties in advance. Family Court Services will schedule the interpreter. Sufficient advance notice (7 days) must be provided to allow time to locate an interpreter.
10. Request for Change of Mediator. In the event there is a request by a participant in mediation for a change of mediator or a concern regarding a problem relating to the

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mediation process, the participant shall complete a form provided by Family Court Services

11. Status Report. If the dispute between the parties is not resolved in mediation, the mediator will report to the Court that no agreement has been reached. The mediator may recommend to the Court that an investigation be ordered or psychological evaluation be obtained, note that a report to County Child Protective Services has been made, or recommend appointment of counsel for the child(ren). Further, the mediator may recommend that restraining orders be issued to protect the well being of the child(ren). The mediator will not advise the Court of the reasons why mediation was not successful unless the reason is that one or both of the parties a) would not cooperate in the process, b) did not come to the appointments, or c) there is an allegation of abuse which was reported.
12. Recommendation for Appointment of Counsel for Child. The mediator or custody investigator may recommend that counsel be appointed to represent any minor child(ren) when it appears that the best interests of the minor child requires independent counsel (Family Code section 3184). The reason for the recommendation of the mediator or the child custody investigator shall be stated in general terms and shall not be binding on the court. It shall only be considered insofar as it alerts the court to the need to consider the appointment of counsel. Neither the mediator nor the investigator shall be called as a witness and/or regarding the specific factual basis for the recommendation.
13. Extended or Ongoing Family Counseling. In certain cases, the mediator may recommend to the parties extended or ongoing family counseling. If the parties agree, provision for such counseling may be incorporated into the mediation agreement when the child is in need of such counseling, or the parties need extended or ongoing counseling in order to resolve the conflicts in their relationship which give rise to their disputes concerning child custody and visitation. Such extended counseling services will not be provided by Family Court Services or at court expense. The mediator may recommend one or more persons or agencies which the parties might contact to obtain counseling.
14. Child Abuse. Penal Code section 11166 requires that the mediator immediately report all instances of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to a child protective agency. The parties will be advised at the beginning of the first mediation session of the reporting responsibility.

**F. SPECIAL RULES**

**1. COURT CONNECTED MEDIATION (CONFIDENTIAL)**

**a. MEDIATION PROCEDURE**

The mediator's role is as a neutral party whose primary concern is the satisfactory resolution of the dispute between the parties concerning custody and visitation in a manner which is in the best interests of the child(ren). The mediator is a problem solver and an advocate for the best interests of the child, not an adversary or trier of fact. In Mediation, all communications between the parties and the mediator are confidential except 1) information (which legally must be reported) that someone in the dispute is a danger to self or others or 2) information incorporated into a written

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agreement between the parties. Confidentiality of mediation proceedings facilitates communications between the parties and the mediator without fear that such communications will be used in subsequent judicial proceedings. Mediator's files are considered confidential and not available to the parties or their attorneys by subpoena or otherwise. The mediator may not be called as a witness in a subsequent hearing, nor may the mediation service records be subpoenaed.

b. THE MEDIATION AGREEMENT

i. GENERAL

If the parties reach a parenting agreement as a result of mediation, their agreement will be handwritten by the mediator immediately. The parties will be asked to review and sign the handwritten version of the parenting agreement. Each party will receive a copy of the signed handwritten parenting agreement before leaving, with a copy forwarded to his or her counsel of record. Copies of the Parenting Agreement, Stipulation and Order will be provided to the parties and their counsel of record upon filing. *(Amended effective January 1, 2006; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2008)*

If an agreement is reached, a ten (10) day rescission period is given to permit parties an opportunity to consult with their attorneys regarding the agreement. If, during the 10 calendar days following the mediation agreement date, either party wishes to rescind the agreement, they must contact Family Court Services. Written notice of rescission must be given to Family Court Services as well as to opposing counsel.

If either party objects to the agreement, the mediation is reported to the Court as one in which no agreement has been reached and the parties are free to pursue whatever legal remedies are available to them. Any agreement which has been rescinded may not be presented to the Court at any subsequent hearing.

If a notice of rescission is not received within 10 calendar days of the date of the agreement, the agreement will be submitted to a judge for signature, at which point the agreement becomes a court order. Signed and file stamped copies of the agreement will then be mailed to the parties.

The agreement can be filed and made a court order before the expiration of the ten day period either a) by written stipulation of all parties, or b) by oral stipulation in open court on the record.

The agreement will not create, modify or extinguish any obligation of support. If either party believes that the custody/visitation agreement necessitates a modification of support, a separate order must be sought.

This agreement will not modify, rescind, or preclude existing or future protective orders. Any such orders must be separately modified as necessary before this agreement may be implemented.

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ii. TEMPORARY AGREEMENTS

If an agreement is reached which covers only a limited period of time, applies pending further court action, or is to be used on a trial basis only, the following procedures will be implemented. There will be no ten (10) day rescission period (see iv. below), and the agreement will not automatically become a court order.

- a) The agreement will be kept on file in the Family Court Services office and will not be submitted to the Court, even after 10 days, by the Family Court Service.
- b) A status form will be filed with the Court.
- c) Family Court Services will schedule a return appointment for the parties and will confirm the appointment with the parties when the temporary agreement is made.
- d) If the agreement breaks down prior to the date the parties are scheduled to return, an appointment will be scheduled for the parties as soon as possible at their request if they are unable to resolve the dispute themselves or through the aid of their attorney(s).
- e) If one of the parties fails to attend further mediation regarding a temporary agreement or declines to participate in further mediation, the temporary agreement will expire on the date set forth in the agreement.

iii. PARTIAL AGREEMENTS

In the event some of the disputed issues are resolved and some are left unresolved, the mediator will prepare an agreement covering the resolved issues. A status form apprising the Court of the unresolved custody or visitation issues will also be filed. The 10 day rescission process described above applies to partial agreements.

2. CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING

Child Custody Recommending Counseling may be scheduled only upon court order. Upon a finding of good cause, the court may direct the Child Custody Recommending Counselor to render a custody or visitation recommendation consistent with Family Code section 3183. Copies of the Child Custody Recommending Counselor's report to the court will be provided to the parties and counsel of record prior to the date of hearing on the review of the report.

If an agreement has been reached between the parties regarding the issues of custody and visitation the Child Custody Recommending Counselor will prepare and forward to the court and the parties and/or their counsel a written summary of such agreement.

If there is no agreement or only partial agreement between the parties regarding issues of custody and/or visitation, the Child Custody Recommending Counselor will submit a recommendation to the court regarding custody and/or visitation with the minor child(ren) pursuant to Family Code 3183. The Child Custody Recommending Counselor's recommendation shall state the factual basis for the recommendation, which may

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include matters communicated to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor by the parties or the minor child(ren). The Court may consider the written recommendation of the Child Custody Recommending Counselor and the basis for that recommendation in determining the issues before the Court at the time of hearing.

All Child Custody Recommending Counseling sessions will be held in private. All communications from a party, a party's attorney, the minor child, the child's attorney and/or any collateral contacts or experts designated by any of the above individuals to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor shall be deemed official information within the meaning of Evidence Code 1040. *(Amended January 1, 2006; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**3. SEPARATE MEDIATION**

In any case in which a Domestic Violence Order (CLETS) has been issued or a Criminal Protective Order is in place against one of the parties, the mediation shall be set and conducted as Child Custody Recommending Counseling. It shall be set and conducted as Separate Mediation if so ordered by the Court or requested by the protected party.

In cases where there has been a history of domestic violence but no order has been issued, the mediation shall be conducted as Separate Mediation when requested by the party who has alleged under penalty of perjury that the violence has occurred.

The time and date of Separate Mediation sessions are confidential and are not disclosed to the other party. The parties are cautioned not to inform the other party of the time and date set.

The Child Custody Recommending Counselor shall render a written recommendation to the Court regarding visitation and custody issues taking into consideration the parameters set by any restraining orders. The protected party may be accompanied by a support person during the session. Until the Court adopts the recommendation, the parties must follow any interim order regarding custody and visitation.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective July 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2007; 10.06.E.2 (a-f) Relettered, Amended effective January 1, 2009, Amended Subd. C, D, E1 E2(f), E3, E4-5, E8, E10, F, F2 and F3 effective July 1, 2012)*

**10.07 COURT ORDERED CUSTODY INVESTIGATION, EVALUATION, AND ASSESSMENT**

A Court-ordered investigation refers to a factual investigation into custody or visitation issues.

An evaluation refers to a psychological evaluation prepared by a psychologist or psychiatrist, under Family Code sections 3110-3118 and Rules of Court 5.220-230. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

An assessment refers to a counseling assessment prepared by a Child and Family Counselor or similar licensed therapist or counselor.

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**A. APPOINTMENT OF EVALUATOR/INVESTIGATOR/COUNSELOR**

In any case in which custody or visitation is in dispute, the court may appoint an investigator, evaluator or counselor and order that a child custody/visitation investigation, evaluation or assessment be conducted if, in the opinion of the court, or upon the recommendation of a mediator, there is a need for such service.

When an Investigation through Family court Services is ordered, each party shall complete a written investigation questionnaire within seven (7) days after an investigation is ordered. The investigation fee charged must be paid in full or a payment plan ordered by the court before an investigation will begin. Each party shall inform the investigator with 72 hours of any change of address or telephone number occurring during the pendency of an investigation. *(Amended January 1, 2006; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

The court may appoint a person the court has determined possesses the necessary qualifications. Multiple examinations of the child by different examiners shall be avoided to the greatest degree possible.

When a counseling assessment is ordered, and before appointment as a court-appointed evaluator, the proposed evaluator shall, upon request, provide to the attorneys for the parties, or to the parties if they are unrepresented, the following information:

- a curriculum vitae;
- the names of at least three attorneys who have worked with the individual in connection with previous investigations, or three mental health professionals who are familiar with the individual's work; and
- provide proof of meeting the requirements of Family Code § 3110-3118 and Rules of Court § 5.220-230 when applicable;
- payment for the evaluation shall be arranged directly with the evaluator.

*(Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**B. CHALLENGES TO COURT-APPOINTED EVALUATOR**

No peremptory challenge of a court-appointed evaluator shall be allowed.

**C. WITHDRAWAL BY COURT-APPOINTED EVALUATOR**

A court-appointed evaluator may seek to withdraw from a case. Such request shall be made as soon as possible after the evaluator is aware of a conflict or other reason that should cause the evaluator to seek to withdraw.

**D. EX PARTE CONTACT PROHIBITED**

No party or attorney for a party shall initiate contact with a court-appointed evaluator, orally or in writing, to discuss the merits of the case without giving the other party notice and an opportunity to be present or to receive a copy of a written communication. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the court-appointed evaluator from contacting either party or attorney.

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**E. CONTACT BETWEEN COURT-APPOINTED EVALUATOR AND MINOR CHILDREN**

The Court relies on the judgment of the evaluator and other persons appointed, as a part of the investigation, in making decisions as to whether children will be interviewed, under what circumstances children will be interviewed, and in justifying such decisions in a particular case. Except in extraordinary circumstances, including the potential for danger to the child, children will be informed that the information provided by the child will not be confidential. During the initial meeting, if any, the evaluator shall provide the child with an age-appropriate explanation of the evaluation process. A child seen by the evaluator with one parent will also be seen with the other parent. At the discretion of the evaluator, interviews with siblings may be separate. Unless ordered by the court, an evaluation shall not be based on an interview with only one parent.

**F. COURT REPORT**

The court order appointing the evaluator shall state the purpose and scope of the evaluation and the date the report shall be filed with the court. Generally, the court will order the report filed within 60 calendar days from the date of appointment. The date for return of the report may be extended by order of the court or written agreement of the parties. The report shall be in writing and shall be distributed to the court, all counsel, and to the parties if they are unrepresented ten (10) calendar days prior to hearing. All written reports and recommendations of the court-appointed evaluator shall be conducted in accordance with and served upon the parties or attorneys consistent with the provisions of Family Code section 3111 and California Rules of Court 5.220. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**G. ACCESS TO THE REPORT**

Any written report or recommendation from the court-appointed evaluator or the person appointed by the court to render a report as a part of the investigation shall be confidential and unavailable to any person except the court, the parties, their attorneys and any person to whom the court expressly grants access by written order made with prior notice to all parties. No person who has access to a report shall make copies of the report or disclose the contents of the report to any child.

**H. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Grievances raised in connection with court-ordered evaluations shall be made in writing, signed, under penalty of perjury, by the party filing the grievance, and addressed to the Presiding Judge. The penalty of perjury statement shall be made in the following format:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Grievant: \_\_\_\_\_

The grievance must specify the issue which is being alleged as the basis for the grievance. The remedy requested must also be specified. Upon receipt of the grievance, the Presiding Judge shall initiate an internal court investigation. The court will determine whether there are witnesses, ascertain the facts of the allegation, notify the investigator of the grievance, and solicit a response to the allegation in the grievance from the investigator. The investigation shall be completed within 30 calendar days of the date the court received the written grievance. The

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court shall notify the grievant and the grievant's attorney as to whether the grievance is sustained, not sustained or unfounded. The grievance and findings by the court shall be maintained in the court's Family Court Services office, for a period of one year, from the date the Presiding Judge's findings are issued. At the end of the one year period, the grievance file shall be destroyed by the Family Court Services Director. The grievance file shall be maintained as a confidential record during and after the evaluation and shall not be made part of the court's case file. The file shall not be open to inspection by the attorneys or the parties, except upon court order.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended July 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended 10.07, Subd. A and Repeal Subd. (I-J) effective July 1, 2012)*

**10.08 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

**A. APPEARANCES BY TELEPHONE**

**1. General Provisions**

Requests for appearance by telephone and opposition to such requests shall be made in compliance with California Rules of Court, Family Law Rules, Chapter 7, section 5.324. Judicial Council form FL-679 must be used for requests. Judicial Council form MC-030 may be used for the declaration in opposition. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007; Renumbered effective July 1, 2010)*

**B. CHILD SUPPORT ORDER ATTACHMENTS**

All orders for child support must have as attachments:

1. Notice of Rights and Responsibilities Health Care Costs and Reimbursement Procedures (Judicial Council form FL-192);
2. Information Sheet on Changing a Child Support Order (Judicial Council form FL-192, side 2);
3. A computer generated support calculation (required in all cases where there is a child support order whether or not there is an agreement regarding support). If the parties do not agree upon a single calculation each party may attach a computer generated calculation.
4. Notice of Right and Responsibilities, Child Care Costs and Reimbursement Procedures if the order provides for payment of a percentage or ration of child care costs (Monterey County form to parallel the Medical Reimbursement form).

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Section 10.08(D) Repealed effective January 1, 2010; Section 10.08(A-1), (A-3), (A-4) Repealed, (A-2) Renumbered effective July 1, 2010, Renumbered from 10.08 C to 10.09 I effective July 1, 2012)*

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**10.09 FAMILY CENTERED CASE RESOLUTION**

Parties seeking dissolution, nullity, legal separation, termination of domestic partnership, and establishment of paternity under the Uniform Parentage Act are subject to compliance with procedural milestones set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.83.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2013)*

**10.10 MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

**A. DUPLICATE FILING**

Copies of previously filed pleadings or declarations should not be attached as exhibits to subsequent documents. Reference to the previous documents is sufficient.

*(Previously Rule 10.08, B, Adopted effective July 1, 2000; Relettered as 10.08 A effective January 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**B. CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS**

It is the responsibility of the filing party to identify any documents that may be considered confidential and to seal such documents when filed with the Court. Such documents may include tax returns, medical reports, psychological records, custody investigation reports, and police reports. HIV laboratory test results shall not be made public. This rule pertains to any documents that are attached to a pleading and filed with the Court. If such attachments are not submitted as sealed, the Clerk of the Court will not act to seal the documents. Unless sealed by the filing party, the documents will be considered as open and public, upon filing with the Clerk. Refer to Local Rule 10.09 F. Sealed Documents listed below, for instruction in filing confidential documents.

**C. PLEADING FOR ADVERSE PARTY**

The practice in domestic relations proceedings whereby the petitioner's attorney prepares pleading for the respondent is not favored. Unless good cause is shown (e.g., military service, party out of state, etc.), no uncontested civil matter shall be heard on answer or response, unless such instruments are prepared by the answering party or his counsel.

**D. SANCTIONS**

Failure to comply with the above rules and policies may result in an award of attorney fees, costs, or other sanctions pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 2.30 and Code of Civil Procedure section 575.2. *(Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**E. DISMISSAL OF FAMILY LAW CASE ON COURT'S OWN MOTION**

Absent good cause, a family law case may be dismissed, without prejudice, on the Court's own noticed motion when:

1. the case is dropped from the trial calendar because the parties have reconciled; and

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2. no further action is taken in the case within 180 calendar days from the date the case is dropped from the trial calendar.

**F. SEALED DOCUMENTS**

Any confidential documents shall be submitted for filing in a clasped envelope not smaller than 7 inches by 10 inches nor larger than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size. The envelope shall be attached to the accompanying document with the clasp facing up and at the bottom of the document to allow access for the court through the clasped end. A label shall be affixed to the envelope showing the case name, number and identity of the documents enclosed. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 1999; Amended effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

**G. COURT COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS**

Court records shall be accessed as set forth in the following paragraph in order to determine if a Criminal Protective Order (CPO) exists involving the parties and affecting the custody or visitation of the children. Any Custody or Visitation Order (CVO) subsequently issued shall take into consideration the terms of any existing CPO and shall be drafted in a manner not inconsistent with the CPO. If the court issuing the CVO recommends that a modification of the CPO be considered, the parties shall be referred to the modification calendar of the Domestic Violence court.

The court records shall be accessed as follows:

1. Family Law, Probate and Juvenile: When there are allegations of domestic violence in the documents submitted to the court.
2. Civil Restraining Orders - Domestic Violence, Harassment, Elder Abuse and Workplace Violence: Prior to the issuance of a temporary restraining order and prior to the hearing on such order.
3. Mediation: Prior to every Separate Mediation and any time there are allegations of domestic violence in the file.

The Domestic Violence court shall make reasonable efforts to determine if a custody or visitation order exists involving the defendant. The court issuing the CPO may permit visitation pursuant to any Family Law, Probate or Juvenile Court order so long as such visitation is determined by the court to be consistent with the safety of the victim[s].

When a CPO exists, any CVO that permits contact between the defendant and the children shall provide for the safe exchange of the children. The CVO shall also specify the time, day, place and manner of transfer of the child pursuant to FC3100 so as to limit the child's exposure to potential domestic conflict or violence and to ensure the safety of all family members. The safety of the parties and their children shall be the court's paramount concern.

This rule does not prevent a CVO from containing more restrictive terms than the CPO.

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**H. COMPLAINTS CONCERNING FAMILY COURT SERVICES MEDIATORS AND LIAISONS.**

Complaints not in connection with court-ordered evaluations (subsection H), must be made in writing and addressed to the Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 240 Church Street, Salinas, CA 93901. The Court Executive Officer or designee, will conduct an investigation and will respond to the written complaint within (30) days. The complainant may appeal the response to the Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge will rule on the appeal within thirty (30) days. *(Adopted effective January 1, 2004, pursuant to CRC 5.500(c); Renumbered from Rule 10.08 to Rule 10.09 effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Rule 10.09 A-H Re-lettered and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**I. LIMITED LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

If representation by an attorney is limited in scope, the Notice of Limited Scope Representation form (Judicial Council form FL-950) specifying the scope of the representation shall be filed with the court. All communications and notices relating to the limited purposes shall be made or sent to all attorneys of record, self-represented parties, and the Department of Child Support Services. When the task specified in the Notice of Limited Scope Representation has been completed, the attorney shall file a Substitution of Attorney-Civil (Judicial Council form MC-050) or proceed pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 5.71. *(Adopted effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Section 10.08(D) Repealed effective January 1, 2010; Section 10.08(A-1), (A-3), (A-4) Repealed, (A-2) Renumbered effective July 1, 2010, Renumbered from 10.08 C to 10.09 I effective July 1, 2012)*

**J. NON-CLETS ORDERS**

The Court will not issue or approve a stipulation by the parties for a non-CLETS Restraining Order.

*(Subd. J Adopted effective July 1, 2012, Amended and Renumbered from 10.09 to 10.10 effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 11**

**SPECIAL MASTER GUIDELINES  
(CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION)**

**11.01 ROLE OF SPECIAL MASTER**

A Special Master is a mental health professional, mediator or family law attorney who specializes in helping parents resolve disputes about what is best for their children. The Special Master and can make such decisions about children if the parents are unable to do so. The Special Master's ultimate role is not to prepare an investigation or evaluation nor to mediate, but to make decisions when the parents cannot, and to assess, report and make recommendations to the Court regarding the impact of those decisions on the best interests of the children.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.02 SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

**A. Legal Authority for Appointment**

Legal authority for appointment of a Special Master is found in the following Code sections:

1. appointment of Special Master as an expert witness under Evidence Code § 730;
2. appointment as an arbitrator under CCP § 1280; appointment as a mediator under Family Code § 3160-3186; or appointment as a referee under CCP § 638 *et seq.*

The appointment of a Special Master as a referee under CCP § 638 *et seq.*, provides the most flexibility and is closest to the intent of the Special Master role. It should be noted that if the appointment is by stipulation, the parties may agree that the Special Master be given the power to make binding decisions; if not, the role of the Special Master is advisory, with the court retaining authority over all decisions.

**B. Qualifications**

**PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS:**

1. Membership in national or state professional association;
2. Experience.
  - a. 3 years post-license experience in child and family therapy; and
  - b. 3 years experience in diagnostic evaluations for family court and/or CPS and/or family mediation service with a minimum of 10 evaluations; and
  - c. 3 years experience in court-based family mediation or assessment.

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3. Training.

Family systems, child development, psychology of divorce and custody. Mediation training is helpful.

4. Familiarity with ethical issues of custody disputes.

5. Working knowledge of custody law, with a minimum of six cases working with attorneys and/or court appearances.

**MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND CHILD COUNSELORS AND LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS:**

Same as above, with 5 years experience, for 2a, 2b, and 2c.

**ATTORNEYS:**

1. Membership in state or national professional association.

2. Experience:

- a. 10 out of the last 12 years experience practicing family law;
- b. 20 custody cases, carried through judgment.

3. Training

- a. Mediation training required;
- b. Continuing education in custody law;
- c. The equivalent of child development (6 units) and family systems (3 units).

**C. Timing**

Generally, a Special Master should not be appointed until after a formal child custody evaluation has been completed, so that he or she may have the benefit of the results of that evaluation in working with the parties. On rare occasions, it may be appropriate to appoint a Special Master pending completion of an evaluation, to deal with matters requiring immediate attention.

**D. Procedure**

1. Appointment

The parties may stipulate to appointment of a Special Master, subject to consent of the individual selected, and subject to the Court's approval. (See Attachment II Receipt and Consent to Appointment of Special Master) The Special Master's role powers, duties, term and incidental matters should be set forth in a written stipulation. (See Attachment I Order Appointing Special Master)

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If the Court appoints a Special Master without a stipulation (either sua sponte or at the request of a party), the parties shall be informed of the name, qualifications and fee of the person proposed, and the right to object to that person for good cause (lack of qualifications, conflict of interest, etc.). Each party should also have the right to one peremptory challenge in the case, similar to that set forth in CCP§ 170.6.

2. Acceptance of Appointment

The proposed Special Master should have the right to accept or decline any appointment, with or without giving a stated reason. A person proposed as a Special Master is required to decline appointment if he or she knows of any bias or conflict of interest which would prevent him or her from acting fairly and impartially.

The Special Master shall act pursuant to a written order defining his or her role, duties, and fees. The form of the order shall be signed and approved by the Special Master.

If the Special Master is appointed upon stipulation, the Special Master's written consent to appointment shall be included with the stipulated order before it is submitted to the court.

If the Special Master has been appointed without a stipulation, then counsel (or party acting *in pro per*) designated by the court shall send a file-stamped copy of the order to the Special Master, together with a receipt and consent for signature and filing with the court (See Attachment II, Receipt and Consent to Appointment of Special Master). In such a case, the moving party (or the court, if appointment is *sua sponte*) shall contact the prospective Special Master in advance to determine his or her availability.

E. Term of Appointment

The Special Master shall be appointed for a specified term or length of time, usually at least one year and not more than two. This will give the Special Master sufficient time to work with the family, while reinforcing the parents' responsibility for their own lives and their children's welfare.

F. Fees

A person appointed as a Special Master is entitled to charge a reasonable fee commensurate with his or her experience and abilities and to request an appropriate retainer (subject to replenishment as it becomes diminished). The order appointing the Special Master shall clearly specify the fee arrangement and each party's responsibility for the fee, as determined by the Court or by stipulation. The Special Master shall also have the ability to recommend a reallocation of fees as a sanction for obstructive behavior; this power shall also be spelled out in the order.

G. Withdrawal and Removal

Once appointed, the Special Master shall have the right to withdraw upon written notice of the Court and the parties, with or without stated reason.

The Special Master may be disqualified on any of the grounds applicable to the removal of a judge, referee or arbitrator, upon noticed motion by either party or the court, sua sponte.

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Neither party may initiate court proceedings for the removal of the Special Master or to bring to the attention of the court or any other body any grievances regarding the performance or actions of the Special Master without meeting and conferring with the Special Master in an effort to resolve the grievance. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.03 POWERS AND ISSUES OF THE SPECIAL MASTER**

A. First Level

To make binding decisions, if the parties so stipulate, on matters relating to daily routines, management of services provided by third parties and minor alterations in the visitation schedule.

Subject to the stipulation of the parties, the Special Master has the authority to make decisions regarding the issues set forth below and such decisions are effective as orders when made. The decisions will continue in effect unless modified or set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction. Special Master decisions on these matters shall be communicated to parties and counsel in person, by telephone, mail, fax, and/or personal delivery, and will take effect immediately upon issuance. In the absence of a stipulation, the Special Master will make recommendations on these matters, as with the matters listed in the second level.

1. Dates and times of pick-up and delivery
2. Sharing of parent vacations and holidays
3. Method of pick-up and delivery
4. Transportation to and from visitation
5. Selection of child care/daycare and baby sitting
6. Bedtime
7. Diet
8. Clothing
9. Recreation
10. After school and enrichment activities
11. Discipline
12. Health care management
13. Alterations in schedule which do not substantially alter the basic time share agreement
14. Participation in visitation (significant others, relatives, etc.)

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15. In the case of infants and toddlers, increasing time share when developmentally appropriate
16. Other daily routines
17. Participation in alcohol and drug monitoring or testing, including selection of monitors or testers

**B. Second Level**

To make recommendations on issues having a longer-term impact on the children's best interests, short of changes in physical or legal custody or substantially limiting parents access to children.

The Special Master has the authority to make recommendations on the issues set forth below. The recommendations shall be submitted to the court, which may approve them and enter them as court orders (See Attachment III Order Adopting Special Master Recommendations).

1. Private school education and school placement
2. Scheduling of church attendance and religious classes
3. Large changes in vacation and holiday timeshares
4. Supervision of visitation
5. Timeshare changes not altering the child's primary residence
6. Appointment of counsel for children
7. Participation in adjunct health services including physical and psychological examinations, assessments and psychotherapy, including selection of providers

Special Master recommendation on these matters shall be served on the Court, parties and counsel by mail, fax or personal delivery. The Special Master recommendations shall be subject to adoption by the Court as an order unless either party files and serves a motion objecting to entry of the order within 15 calendar days of service of the recommendations. Either party shall have the right to request a written explanation from the Special Master of any recommendation, which shall be provided within 20 calendar days to both parties, counsel and the court.

**C. Third Level**

To recommend to the Court (without any recommendation as to the preferred outcome) that it consider and review matters substantially altering the parties' timesharing arrangements, altering physical custody or legal custody or substantially limiting a parent's access to his or her children, and matters related to religion and religious training.

The Special Master shall not make any recommendations which alter a child's primary residence, alter an award of physical custody, alter an award of legal custody, prohibit a party's contact with his/her children, or require or prohibit adherence to a religion. These decisions and

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others relating to issues not included among those assigned to the Special Master, as set forth in the first and second levels, are reserved to the Monterey County Superior Court for adjudication, and may be presented to the court by either party or upon the recommendation of the Special Master without a recommendation as to outcome. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.04 PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Special Master's decisions on first-level matters shall be communicated to parties/counsel orally and/or in writing, in person, by telephone, fax and/or mail, and take effect immediately.
- B. Special Master recommendation on second-level matters shall be communicated in writing to the Court/parties and counsel by mail, fax or personal delivery. The Special Master recommendations would be subject to adoption by the Court as an order after 15 days (see Attachment III Proposed Order Adopting Special Master) unless either party files and serves a motion objecting to entry of the order. Either party should have the right to request a written explanation of any recommendation, to be provided within 20 calendar days, to the other party, counsel and the court.
- C. Special Master recommendation on third-level matters shall be communicated in writing to the Court/parties and counsel by mail or personal delivery. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.05 EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Communication with the Court.

The Special Master is authorized to communicate ex parte with the court, at the discretion of the Special Master and the judge. Ordinarily, such communication should be made only after giving notice to both parties. However, notice may be excused if notice would frustrate the very purpose of the communication, provided that the Special Master notifies the court that the communication is being made without giving notice and provides the reasons for not giving notice.

- B. Ex Parte Communications with Parties and Counsel

The Special Master and the parties, as well as their attorneys, shall be permitted to engage in free oral communication without advance notice to the opposing party or attorney. If the parties communicate in writing with the Special Master, copies should be provided to the other party. Similarly, written communications from counsel to the Special Master shall be copied to the other attorney. The Special Master shall have the right to impose reasonable limitation on these communications. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.06 SPECIAL MASTER ROLE WHEN ISSUES ADDRESSED INTERRELATE WITH FINANCIAL OR PROPERTY ISSUES**

Occasionally, issues may arise which are outside of the expertise of the Special Master, particularly issues such as support, use or occupancy of property, management of assets and other financial issues. The Special Master may request appointment of a co-Special Master with the necessary expertise to assist the Special Master in finding a resolution which will be in the best interests of the children. The recommendations of the co-Special Master should

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ordinarily be considered second-level issues requiring approval of court to implement.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.07 IMMUNITY**

Qualified people who serve as Special Master by appointment of the court shall be advised that they may be protected by quasi-judicial immunity, so long as they maintain neutrality and perform quasi-judicial functions. See Howard v. Drapkin 222 Cal.App.3<sup>rd</sup> [271 Cal.Rptr. 893].

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**11.08 FORMAT OF ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL MASTER**

The Court and Counsel should be free to fashion individual orders for unique situations. A proposed order for use and adaptation as appropriate is included in these guidelines (See Attachment I, Order Appointing Special Master).

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

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**ATTACHMENT I**

**ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL MASTER**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

**Marriage of Petitioner:**

**Case No.**

**and**

**ORDER APPOINTING  
SPECIAL MASTER**

**Respondent:**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

Good cause appearing thereof, pursuant to the stipulation of the parties,

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

**Appointment of Special Master.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed Special Master, to serve until his/her resignation or written agreement of the parties, further court order, or \_\_\_\_\_, whichever first occurs.

**Powers of Special Master.**

2. Level One. Subject to the stipulation of the parties (if indicated on Exhibit 1), the Special Master has the authority to make decisions regarding the issues set forth on Exhibit 1 and such decisions are effective as orders when made and will continue in effect unless modified or set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction. Special Master decision on these matters shall be communicated to parties/counsel in person, by telephone, mail, fax, and/or personal delivery and will take effect immediately.

If the parties do not stipulate to the Special Master's authority to make decisions about the matters listed on Exhibit 1, those matters shall be subject to the Special Master's authority to make recommendations in accordance with Paragraph 3 of this order.

3. Level Two. The Special Master has the authority to make recommendations on the issues set forth on Exhibit 2, which recommendations shall be submitted to the court, which may approve them and enter them as court orders.

Special Master recommendation on these matters shall be served on the Court/parties and counsel by mail, fax or personal delivery. The Special Master recommendations shall be subject to adoption by the Court as an order unless either party files and serves a motion objecting to entry of the order within 15 days of service of the recommendations. Either party shall have the right to request a written explanation from the Special Master of any

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recommendation, which shall be proved within 20 calendar days to both parties, counsel and the court.

4. Level Three. The Special Master shall not make any recommendations which alter a child's primary residence, alter an award of physical custody, alter an award of legal custody, prohibits a party's contact with his/her children, or require or prohibit adherence to a religion. These decisions and other relating to issues not included among those assigned to the Special Master in Exhibits 1 and 2 of this order are reserved to the Monterey County Superior Court for adjudication, and may be presented to the court by either party or upon the recommendation of the Special Master without a recommendation as to outcome.

**Communications with the Special Master.**

5. Both parties shall cooperate with the Special Master and shall be present when so requested by the Special Master. The Special Master may initiate contacts with the parties or counsel which are informal in nature, by telephone or in person. The Special Master has the authority to decide when and if to meet with the parties and to determine the protocol of all meetings including the power to determine who attends such meetings.

6. The parties and their attorneys may communicate ex parte with the Special Master, subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the Special Master. Any party may write to the Special Master, provided that copies are provided to the opposing party simultaneously and subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the Special Master. Counsel may initiate contact in writing with the Special Master, provided copies are provided to opposing counsel simultaneously.

7. The Special Master may communicate ex parte with the judge, at the discretion of the Special Master and the judge. Such communications shall be made only after giving notice to both parties; provided, however, that notice may be excused if notice would frustrate the very purpose of the communication. If the Special Master communicates with the judge without having given notice, (s)he shall notify the judge of that fact and his/her reasons for not giving notice.

8. Counsel or parties in pro per shall serve the Special Master with all pleadings and discovery relating to non-financial issues concerning the child(ren).

9. With the agreement of the parties and counsel, or upon court order, the Special Master may utilize consultants and/or assistants as necessary to assist the Special Master in the performance of the duties contained herein.

10. The Special Master may request the appointment of a co-Special Master where issues arise which require the expertise of someone other than the Special Master. The powers of the co-Special Master shall be set forth in the order appointing the co-Special Master.

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11. The parties shall sign all requested releases, including the release attached to this Order as Exhibit 3 and shall forthwith provide all relevant and reasonable records, documentation, and information requested by the Special Master.

12. No physician-patient or therapist-patient relationship and/or privilege between either party, the minor child(ren) and the Special Master is created by this order.

**Fees.**

13. The Special Master's fees is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour. Time spent in interviewing, report preparation, review of records and correspondence, telephone conversation, travel, court preparation and any other time spent in connection with serving as Special Master will be billed at the same hourly rate. The Special Master's fee for Court appearances is \$\_\_\_\_\_, per hour, including travel time to and from his/her office and waiting time. The Special Master may require an advance deposit in an amount to be agreed upon by him/her and the parties, subject to replenishment upon becoming diminished.

14. The Special Master shall be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses he/she incurs in association with his/her role as Special Master. These costs may include, but are not limited to the following: photocopies, messenger service, long distance telephone charges, postage, express and/or certified mail costs and excess postage to foreign countries, parking, tolls, mileage, other travel expenses and word processing. At the Special Master's discretion, fees for consultants or assistants agreed to ordered shall be paid directly to the provider or reimbursed to the Special Master.

**Allocations.**

15. Except as otherwise provided below, the fees of the Special Master shall be shared by the parties in the following manner: Father shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the Special Master's fees, expenses and advance deposit, and Mother shall pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the Special Master's fees, expenses and advance deposit.

16. The Special Master shall have the right to allocate payment of his/her fees at a percentage difference from the above if he/she believes the need for his/her services is attributable to conduct and/or intransigence of one party.

17. In the event that either party fails to provide twenty four (24) hours' notice of cancellation of any appointment with the Special Master, such party shall pay all of the Special Master's charges for such missed appointment at the full hourly rate, at the discretion of the Special Master.

18. Once appointed, the Special Master shall have the right to withdraw upon written notice to the Court and parties, with or without a stated reason.

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19. The Special Master may be disqualified on any of the grounds applicable to the removal of a judge, referee or arbitrator, upon motion by either party or by the court on its own motion.

20. Neither party may initiate court proceedings for the removal of the Special Master or to bring to the attention of the court or any other body any grievances regarding the performance or actions of the Special Master without meeting and conferring with the Special Master in an effort to resolve the grievance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
Special Master

**ORDER**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court

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**EXHIBIT 1 Level One Powers**

1. Dates and times of pick-up and delivery
2. Sharing of parent vacations and holidays
3. Method of pick-up and delivery
4. Transportation to and from visitation
5. Selection of child care/daycare and baby sitting
6. Bedtime
7. Diet
8. Clothing
9. Recreation
10. After school and enrichment activities
11. Discipline
12. Health care management
13. Alterations in schedule which do not substantially alter the basic time share agreement
14. Participation in visitation (significant others, relatives, etc.)
15. In the case of infants and toddlers, increasing time share when developmentally appropriate
16. Other daily routines
17. Participation in alcohol and drug monitoring or testing, including selection of monitors or testers
18. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**We agree that the Special Master may make binding decisions on the above matters.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials Initials

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**EXHIBIT 2 Level 2 Powers**

1. Private school education and school placement
2. Scheduling of church attendance and religious classes
3. Large changes in vacation and holiday timeshares
4. Supervision of visitation
5. Timeshare changes not altering the child's primary residence
6. Appointment of counsel for children
7. Participation in adjunct health services including physical and psychological examinations, assessments and psychotherapy, including selection of providers.

**EXHIBIT 3**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

We, the undersigned, specifically authorize any public agency, private person, physician, psychologist, treating therapist, drug and/or alcohol treatment program, hospital, law enforcement agency, teacher, counselor or child care provider possessing information about each of us or our minor children, confidential or otherwise, to release this information, including copies of all relevant documents, to \_\_\_\_\_, Special Master. We consent that interviews may take place at the children's schools if deemed appropriate by the Special Master. We understand this information will be used as the Special Master may deem fit and proper. This release shall remain valid until \_\_\_\_\_, (date). We understand that we are entitled to a copy of this release of information form.

FATHER:

MOTHER:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

NAME OF CHILD/CHILDREN:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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ATTACHMENT II

RECEIPT AND CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MONTEREY

Marriage of Petitioner:

Case No.

RECEIPT AND CONSENT TO  
APPOINTMENT AND SPECIAL MASTER

Respondent:

\_\_\_\_\_ /

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge receipt of a file-stamped copy of the order Appointing Special Master filed \_\_\_\_\_, and I consent to appointment as Special Master thereunder.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

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**ATTACHMENT III**

**ORDER ADOPTING SPECIAL MASTER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

**Marriage of Petitioner:**

**Case No.**

**and**

**ORDER ADOPTING SPECIAL  
MASTER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Respondent:**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

The court has read and considered the letter and recommendations submitted by  
Special Master \_\_\_\_\_, dated \_\_\_\_\_.

There being no objection filed, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the court adopts and  
incorporated herein said recommendations (see attached copy of letter).

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court

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**CHAPTER 12**

**SETTING OF CONTESTED FAMILY LAW, PROBATE, ADOPTION  
AND UNLAWFUL DETAINER ACTIONS**

**12.01 CONTESTED FAMILY LAW, PROBATE, AND ADOPTION**

Contested Family Law, Probate, and Adoption actions will be set for trial only upon the filing of an At-Issue Memorandum.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**12.02 AT-ISSUE MEMORANDUM**

The setting of cases for trial shall be in accordance with Rules 10.901 of the California Rules of Court and these rules.

- A. Any At-Issue Memorandum filed shall be on the form provided by the Clerk of the Court.
- B. Approximately fifteen (15) days after the filing of an At-Issue Memorandum the Court shall set the case for trial without a trial setting conference. (Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective January 1, 2011)

**12.03 COUNTER AT-ISSUE MEMORANDUM**

- A. Any party not in agreement with any other representation made in an At-Issue Memorandum shall within ten (10) days after the service thereof, serve and file a Counter At-Issue Memorandum on his or her behalf.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**12.04 SHORT CAUSE**

In short cause cases (one day or less), in addition to the information required by Rules 10.900 of the California Rules of Court, the At-Issue Memorandum shall indicate those dates, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days from the date the At-Issue Memorandum is filed, during which trial counsel is not available for trial.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008)*

**12.05 LONG CAUSE**

In long cause cases (more than one day), in addition to the information required by Rules 3.714 and 10.900 of the California Rules of Court the At-Issue Memorandum shall indicate those dates, not less than three (3) months nor more than six (6) months from the date the At-Issue Memorandum is filed, during which the trial counsel is not available for trial.

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2008)*

**12.06 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES**

*(Repealed effective July 1, 2003)*

**12.07 UNLAWFUL DETAINER ACTIONS**

Unlawful detainer actions will be set for trial no later than 20 days from the date the Request to Set Case For Trial (UD-150) is filed pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1170.5(a).

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2011)*

**12.08 CONTESTED PROBATE**

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2011, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 13**

**RESET AND CONTINUANCE OF A TRIAL DATE**

**13.01 DEFINITIONS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Repealed effective July 1, 2010)*

**13.02 PROCEDURE FOR RESETTING CASES:**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Repealed effective July 1, 2010)*

**13.03 PROCEDURE FOR CONTINUING CASES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004; Repealed effective July 1, 2010)*

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**CHAPTER 14**

**CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT**

**14.01 FILING OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS**

The deadline for filing new Felony charges shall be filed no later than 11:00 am of the day the defendant is to appear for arraignment, unless otherwise directed by the Presiding Judge.

The deadline for filing new Misdemeanor charges shall be filed no later than 2:00 pm for the next day setting, unless otherwise directed by the Presiding Judge.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009)*

**14.02 ADDING CASES TO CRIMINAL CALENDAR**

Any application or memorandum for setting a criminal matter on calendar shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office no later than two court days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the requested hearing date. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the judge hearing the case.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009)*

**14.03 DEADLINES FOR FILING**

The deadline for filing on the Felony Grist Calendar shall be 11:00 am, the day prior to next available grist day for In-Custody matters.

The deadline for filing on the Felony Grist Calendar shall be 11:00 am, two court days prior to the requested hearing date (excluding weekends or holidays) for defendants not in custody.

The deadline for a defendant out of custody appearing at the counter to be set for an arraignment on a warrant shall be 2:00 pm for the next day's calendar. This excludes Mondays for all calendars and Fridays for Department 11 only.

The deadline for filing or faxing a memorandum to set a matter on calendar for arraignment on warrant shall be two court days (excluding weekends or holidays) prior to the requested hearing date.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009)*

**14.04 PENAL CODE 995 AND 1538.5 MOTIONS**

Except for good cause shown, all Motions to Set Aside the Indictment or Information must be set for hearing within ten (10) days of the date of arraignment. All Motions to Suppress Evidence must be calendared for setting within ten (10) days of the date of arraignment.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

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**14.05 OTHER PRETRIAL AND DISCOVERY MOTIONS**

All other pretrial and discovery motions must be heard prior to the Jury Trial Readiness Calendar (CRC 4.112(b)).

At the time of the defendant's first appearance on a criminal matter, an informal request for continuing discovery shall be deemed to have been made by the defendant requesting the prosecutor to comply with Penal Code Section 1054.1, and by the prosecutor, requesting the defendant to comply with Penal Code Section 1054.3.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**SHORT CAUSE CRIMINAL**

**14.06 PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE CALENDAR**

In order to reasonably predict the business of the Court, anticipate assignments of judges, and to eliminate unnecessary inconvenience to parties, witnesses and trial jurors, a pre-trial conference shall be held in every criminal case (including traffic) in which a trial by jury has been demanded.

- A. Procedures. The judge in each department, except the Felony Arraignment Department, shall, at the time of arraignment and entry of plea, set the date for pre-trial conference.
- B. Date Set for Trial. Once a case is set on the pre-trial conference calendar, it may not be changed without the approval of the judge before whom it is assigned.
- C. Failure to Appear at Pre-trial Conference. Any failure of an attorney to prepare for, appear at, or participate in, a pre-trial conference, unless good cause is shown for any such omission, is an unlawful interference with the proceedings of the Court and may be punished as contempt.
- D. Trial Brief Requirement. In all criminal matters where the case does not settle at the pre-trial conference and the matter remains set for trial, trial counsel will be required to file a brief no later than 12 noon on Friday for all felony cases and no later than 3 p.m. on Friday for all misdemeanor cases immediately preceding the trial date (in most instances the following Monday) unless an earlier date is ordered by the court. The only exception to the timely filing of a trial brief is by authorization of the Presiding Judge, designee of the Presiding Judge, or the Trial Judges.

The trial brief shall include the following:

- A brief factual statement of the case that can be read to the jury
- Proposed jury instructions
- All in limine motions along with supporting points and authorities
- Proposed voir dire questions that are being requested
- A list of any witness problems that may interfere with the timely conduct of the trial
- Any other issues that will have to be dealt with by the trial judge
- Witness list
- Exhibit list
- Proposed verdict form

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*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Rule 14.05 Renumbered as 14.03 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**14.07 JURY TRIAL READINESS CALENDAR**

There shall be a jury trial readiness calendar for all criminal and traffic misdemeanor cases at which time all trial counsel must be present. The trial readiness conference is to be a sincere effort by the attorneys and parties to eliminate congestion of the trial calendar so long as justice can be properly afforded to all parties. If the trial attorney fails to appear, the Court may, in its discretion, find him/her in contempt.

- A. Procedures. Upon the calling of such readiness calendar, all motions for continuance, waiver of jury, change of plea, reductions, or other procedural matters shall be presented. In the event the case is not disposed of at the trial readiness conference and a trial date is requested or confirmed, all offers on either side will be deemed withdrawn and the case will be set for trial and tried on all counts. No further amendments to pleadings or continuances will be granted except for good cause shown.
- B. Date Set for Trial - Duties. When the parties announce they are ready for trial, the parties announce that:
- The respective attorneys are prepared to commence the trial immediately.
  - All pre-trial motions and discovery have been completed.
  - All witnesses are readily available and have been interviewed by the respective attorneys.
  - The attorneys' calendars permit them to commence the trial immediately and see it to conclusion.
- C. Proposed Jury Questionnaires. Unless waived by the trial judge, counsel shall submit proposed jury questionnaires to the court no less than 15 court days in advance of the trial date. Upon receipt, the questionnaires shall not be officially filed by the Clerk of the Court, but shall be immediately forwarded by the Clerk of the Court to the trial judge for review.
- D. Continuance Policy. The welfare of the People of the State of California requires that all proceedings in criminal cases shall be set for trial and heard at the earliest possible time (PC1050). Therefore, it is the policy of this court to maximize the use of judicial time and avoid continuances, resetting and unnecessary trailing of cases. Any motion to continue in a criminal proceeding must comply with Penal Code Section 1050. Further, this Court adheres to no trial continuance policy - when a courtroom event is scheduled, that event should take place as scheduled.
1. Counsel.
- a. Counsel's attention is directed to Rule 3-110 of the Rules of Professional Conduct State Bar of California, "Failing to Act Competently."
  - i. A member of the State Bar shall not:

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- a) Accept employment or continue representation in a legal matter when the member does not have sufficient time, resources and ability to perform the matter with competence, or
  - b) Repeatedly accept employment or continue representation in legal matters when the member reasonably should know that the member does not have or will not acquire before performance is required, sufficient time, resources and ability to perform the matter with competence.
- ii. Counsel should not set a case if they are committed to another trial during that period or if they are going to be on vacation. This includes cases set in Superior Court and cases in different divisions and departments of the Court. Counsel should not schedule other cases to begin if they have another matter set in Court. Neither reason constitutes “good cause” for a continuance.
  - iii. Motions, pre-trials and trials are to be heard at the date and time set
  - iv. Substitute Counsel: An attorney who appears for another attorney is representing the defendant then before the Court. An attorney who makes such an appearance is required to do so competently. California Rules of Professional Conduct 3-110. Such an attorney is expected to be prepared to carry out and perform any duties required at that calendar event; should a continuance be required it is his or her responsibility to have complied with this policy and to know when the other attorney will be available to appear; if a case is not to be tried, he or she should have the authority to dispose of the case. Should these rules not be complied with, sanctions will be applied against this attorney. CCP 128.5, CCP 177.5, California Rules of Court 2.30. At the next scheduled calendar event, the counsel of record must file a declaration with the Court explaining his or her ability to be present at the last calendar event. (Amended effective January 1, 2007)
  - v. Counsel should not delay in filing and serving proper motions. Failure to timely file or serve without good cause will result in the imposition of sanctions.
  - vi. Counsel should subpoena witnesses as soon as a case is set for hearing or trial.
  - vii. Counsel should not accept representation of a defendant if he/she does not have sufficient time to adequately prepare before the next scheduled event.
2. Motions. Motions to continue must comply with Penal Code Section 1050. Courtroom events will be continued only when extraordinary circumstances, not within the control of the parties and which were not foreseeable at the time of setting the date of the event, necessitate a continuance. In ruling on motions to continue, the following factors will be taken into consideration:
- a. The time when the need for the continuance arose and the diligence of counsel in bringing the need for a continuance to the attention of the Court and opposing counsel at the earliest possible date and in attempting to avoid a continuance;
  - b. The proximity of trial, the age of the case, the established time limits for processing cases, and the nature of any previous continuances or prior orders entered in the case;

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- c. The earliest possible date all parties and the Court will be ready to proceed;
  - d. Whether the continuance may be avoided by substitution of attorneys or witnesses, or by the use of stipulations as to testimony, and
  - e. The injury or inconvenience caused to the party not requesting the continuance.
3. Good Cause. Continuances will only be granted on the showing by competent evidence of good cause. The facts proven justifying good cause and the length of continuance shall be set forth on the record. Good cause is not shown by the following:
- a. Counsel's vacation or commitment to another trial or proceeding except as provided in Penal Code Section 1050(g)
  - b. Failure of a client to adhere to a financial agreement with his/her attorney
  - c. Failure to expeditiously prepare for trial
  - d. A witness's vacation or attendance at school unless this is accompanied by a showing of the witness's unavailability, that the testimony is material and that the party seeking the attendance exercised due diligence to secure the presence of the witness
  - e. Informal diversion
  - f. A civil compromise pursuant to Penal Code Section 1378
  - g. Other pending cases
  - h. Negotiations not yet completed
- (Misdemeanor cases coming within (e) and (f) can be conditionally dismissed on waiver of the prohibition against re-filing).
4. No continuance will be granted solely because all parties agree thereto.
5. The failure to adhere to this policy will result in the imposition of sanctions and the assessment of reasonable costs. CCP 128.5, CCP 177.5, California Rules of Court 2.30. (Amended effective January 1, 2007)
6. Trailing. Should it be necessary that cases be trailed for hearing or trial, they will be trailed day by day. The case will be called each day at 11:30, 4:30 and the next day at 8:30. When a case is trailing, the defendant and counsel, except in extraordinary circumstances, must be present when the case is called.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2002; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 14.06 Renumbered as 14.04 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

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**14.08 EVIDENTIARY PRE-TRIAL**

In all misdemeanor pre-trial motions requiring the presentation of any evidence of any party will be noticed in writing with proof of service of opposing party(ies) filed no later ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of hearing, unless, for good cause shown, and upon written order of court, time is shortened for the filing of said pre-trial motion.

A. Motion to Suppress Evidence. In misdemeanor cases, whenever a Penal Code Section 1538.5 motion to suppress evidence is made, the moving party shall file written points and authorities at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. The written points and authorities shall:

1. Identify with particularity the evidence sought to be suppressed;
2. Specifically state the legal theory(ies) which will be relied upon; and
3. Cite the specific authority(ies) which will be offered in support of the motion.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 14.07 Renumbered as 14.05 and Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**14.09 MODIFICATION OF SENTENCE ADJUDGED**

The judge placing a defendant on probation in a misdemeanor case shall, as far as practicable, hear any application for modification, change, or termination of probation, except for applications under P.C. 1203.4 or 1203.45.

Any request for modification of sentence imposed must be filed in writing on a form provided by the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Rule 14.08 Renumbered as 14.06 effective January 1, 2009)*

**14.10 COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL**

Only the Office of the Public Defender shall be appointed as counsel in all appointments authorized under Penal Code Section 987 et. al. In situations involving conflict of interest filed by the Office of the Public Defender of Monterey County referral will be made to the Alternate Defender's Office for appointment of counsel.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2004; Rule 14.09 Renumbered as 14.07 effective January 1, 2009)*

**14.11 APPEALS IN MISDEMEANOR CASES THAT WERE ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2007; Rule 14.10 Renumbered as 14.08 effective January 1, 2009; Repealed effective January 1, 2011)*

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**14.12 POSTING OF A PROPERTY BOND IN A CRIMINAL CASE**

Security in Real Property

In lieu of a deposit of cash or a bail bond, the defendant or any other person may give as security any equity in real property which he or she owns. No charge is made to the defendant or any other person for the giving as security of any equity of real property. (*Penal Code 1298*)

Purpose

The purpose of a property bond is to release the defendant from actual custody and guarantee the appearance of the defendant at all future court hearings.

Requirements

A hearing is required if equity in real property is submitted as security. At the hearing, at which witnesses may be called or examined, the magistrate will determine the value of such equity. If the magistrate finds that the value of the equity is equal to twice the amount of the cash deposit required he or she shall allow such bail. (*Penal Code 1298*)

Procedure

- A. To set the matter for hearing, a noticed Motion for Real Property Equity Bond with proof of service to the Office of District Attorney and Monterey County Counsel must be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office at least 5 days prior to the date set for the hearing. The following documents must be submitted as attachments to the motion:
1. Declaration of Property Owner(s).
  2. A Notarized Promissory Note in the amount of the required bond.
  3. Copy of the Deed of Trust proposed to be recorded securing the promissory note naming Monterey County as Beneficiary and Court Executive Officer of Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, as Trustee.
  4. Current Preliminary Title Report including legal description of property, location and all encumbrances from a recognized California Title Company dated within 30 days prior to the application for property bond.
  5. Appraisal Report of the fair market value of the property, completed by a certified real estate appraiser. The report should be dated no more that 30 days prior to the application for property bond.
  6. Proof of Insurance coverage for the property. Must have an adequate amount of coverage to cover all encumbrances. Must show County of Monterey on the insurance policy.
  7. Order Approving Property Bond and Order for Release of Defendant. (*Penal Code 1281*)
- B. All documents submitted for filing must conform to the form/format requirements set forth in California Rules of Court 2.100(b).

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- C. The Clerk's Office will review all forms and paperwork to ensure that all necessary items have been presented for court approval.
- D. The Court may require additional evidence in order to ascertain the true equity in the property held by the applicants. (*Penal Code 1280*)
- E. If the Court approves the property bond, the applicant shall record the Deed of Trust with the County Recorder's Office where the property is located to be recorded, and shall deliver to the Clerk of the Court a copy of the recorded Deed of Trust. The original Deed of Trust shall be returned by mail from the County Recorder's Office to the Clerk of the Court. All costs incurred to process the property bond and to comply with this Rule shall be borne by the applicant.
- F. The Clerk of the Court will present the Order Approving Property Bond and Order for Release of Defendant to the Magistrate. Magistrate signs order(s) if not previously signed.
- G. The Clerk of the Court will send a duplicate copy of Order Approving Property Bond and Order for Release of Defendant with court seal affixed, to the County Jail.
- H. The Clerk of the Court will place the Promissory Note and newly recorded Deed of Trust in a sealed envelope and stores the envelope in a secured area.
- I. In the event the property bond is ordered exonerated, the attorney of record must do the following:
  - 1. Prepare a Full Reconveyance form.
  - 2. Schedule an appointment with the Court Executive Officer or designee.
    - a. Court Executive Officer or designee signs the Full Reconveyance in the presence of a notary public provided and paid for by the defendant.
    - b. Signed Full Reconveyance, cancelled recorded Deed of Trust and cancelled Promissory Note is given to the attorney of record.
  - 3. In the event the property bond is ordered forfeited, upon entry of summary judgment and order of the court, the Clerk shall prepare an appropriate form of order for the Court's signature directing the Clerk to release the original deed of trust and promissory note to County Counsel for the commencement of foreclosure proceedings. (*Penal Code 1280.1(b)*)

*(Adopted January 1, 2008; Rule 14.11 Renumbered as 14.09 effective January 1, 2009; Amended effective July 1, 2010; Amended effective July 1, 2012)*

**14.13 LOCAL CRIMINAL BAIL SCHEDULE**

This rule sets forth a schedule and procedure for adoption of the local bail schedule pursuant to PC §§ 1269b (c) and (d) and CRC Rule 4.102. This bail schedule will be used for setting bail at all times provided by law.

- A. The local bail schedule will be reviewed annually.

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- B. Judicial officers of this court designated by the Presiding Judge will review and consider revision of the local bail schedule annually and submit their proposed revisions to the Presiding Judge. The proposed revised local bail schedule will then be reviewed for adoption by a majority of the judicial officers.
- C. Copies of the local bail schedule shall be sent to the officer in charge of the county jail and of each city jail within the county, to each judicial officer of this court, to the Judicial Council and posted on the Court's public website. [PC §1269b(f), CRC, Rule 4.102].

Bail shall be set according to the Uniform Bail Schedule established by the Judicial Council per CRC Rule 4.102 for those charges addressed in said schedule except when a judge determines in his or her discretion that factors in aggravation of mitigation justify a different amount in a specific case.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**14.14 TRIALS BY DECLARATION**

The Court adopts the Trial By Declaration process, defined in Vehicle Code Section 40902 and California Rules of Court Rule 4.210.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2010)*

**14.15 NIGHT COURT**

Night Court is held the last Monday of every month (excluding holidays) for traffic arraignments and special sets from the Court. No pre-trial or court trials will be set for Night Court (VC42006(a)).

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2013)*

**14.16 TRAFFIC SCHOOL**

The Court does not allow installment payments on cases where the defendant is requesting to attend traffic school. (VC42007(a)(2)).

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2013)*

**14.17 MOTION TO RE-OPEN CASE ADJUDICATED BY BAIL FORFEITURE**

Any motion to re-open a conviction reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles following a bail forfeiture under Vehicle Code section 40512 or reported as a failure to complete traffic violator school under Vehicle Code section 40512.6 shall be filed with the Traffic division no later than 90 days from the date of the bail forfeiture.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2013)*

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**14.18 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION**

Upon written or verbal request for an extension of time to take care of an infraction traffic or infraction non-traffic matter, the Clerk of the Court or designee is authorized to grant a one (1) time 60-day extension from the original pay or appear date (appearance date on citation).

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 15**

**WRITS**

**15.01 HABEAS CORPUS**

Petitions for writs of habeas corpus shall be filed in accordance with Cal. Rules of Court, rule 4.550 et seq. and Penal Code section 1473 et seq.

Petitions for writs of habeas corpus shall be addressed to the designated criminal writ judge.

Petitions for writs of habeas corpus will be assigned a unique case number unless otherwise directed by the court.

Requests to set habeas corpus petitions on calendar for matters other than an evidentiary hearing under Cal. Rules of Court, rule 4.551(f) shall be addressed to the designated criminal writ judge.

*(Rule 15.01 previously Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Repealed effective January 1, 2009, New Rule 15.01 Adopted effective January 1, 2009)*

**15.02 WRITS FROM THE COURT**

Petitions for writs of coram nobis, mandamus or prohibition in a criminal proceeding must be presented to the Presiding Judge except petitions for writs coram vobis, mandamus, prohibition, review (certiorari) or supersedeas arising from any misdemeanor case, infraction case, or limited civil action, which shall be addressed to the Presiding Appellate Judge.

*(Rule 15.03 Renumbered as 15.02, Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**15.03 ALL OTHER WRITS**

All other writs shall be addressed to the Supervising Civil Judge.

Writs addressed to the Appellate Division shall also comply with the rules in Chapter 9.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2000; Rule 15.04 renumbered as 15.03, Amended effective January 1, 2009)*

**15.04 ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

A party intending to use an administrative record in a case brought under section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure shall lodge the record in the department in which the matter will be heard at least five (5) court days before the hearing.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2000; Rule 15.06 Renumbered as 15.04 effective January 1, 2009)*

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**CHAPTER 16**

**MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**16.01 MENTAL HEALTH JUDGE**

The Mental Health Judge shall be designated by the Presiding Judge.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**16.02 CALENDAR**

All mental health cases initiated under Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5000, et seq. (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act) shall be heard on Fridays at 1:30 P.M. If Friday falls on a Court holiday, the mental health calendar shall be heard on the preceding judicial day.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**16.03 JURY TRIALS**

If a jury trial is demanded, the trial date will be set by the Mental Health Judge.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2010)*

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**CHAPTER 17**

**DUTIES OF ATTORNEYS**

**17.01 NOTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT**

Whenever any case pending on the trial calendar is settled, the attorneys shall immediately notify the Court. Failure to do so shall be deemed to be an unlawful interference with the proceedings of the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**17.02 EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES**

Only one attorney on each side will be permitted to examine or cross-examine the same witness.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**17.03 SUBSTITUTION**

When an attorney withdraws from an action or proceeding and no other counsel is substituted, he shall endorse upon the withdrawal the address and telephone number of the client.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**17.04 COPIES OF JUDGMENTS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Repealed Effective July 1, 2005)*

**17.05 TIMELY FILING**

It shall be the duty of counsel, on all documents of whatsoever nature presented for filing as part of the official court file, to indicate the date of any pending court trial or hearing to which the documents may be pertinent, as part of or directly below the caption describing the nature of the document. The Clerk shall process court filings on a priority basis, ensuring that all documents are properly entered and filed in the appropriate court file with all due promptness following receipt. The Clerk shall further give all necessary processing priority to documents with pending court trial or hearing dates, insuring that documents reach the court file prior to delivery of the file to the Court for hearing, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible in consideration of the date of receipt.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**17.06 COPIES OF PLEADINGS, JUDGMENTS AND APPEALABLE ORDERS**

Attorneys or individuals acting as their own attorney shall furnish the Clerk with copies of all pleadings, judgments and appealable orders as follows:

- A. An original and no more than 2 copies of any civil judgment, proposed civil judgment appealable order or pleading;

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- B. An original and 3 copies of any family judgment or proposed family judgment;
- C. An original and 2 copies of the Notice of Entry of Judgment (FL-190) along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for each party;

The Clerk shall return copies if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided. *(Adopted effective July 1, 2005; Amended effective July 1, 2009, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**17.07 JUDGMENT DEBTOR EXAMINATION**

Judgment Creditor must promptly notify the court 48 hours prior to the scheduled court hearing, in writing, if the examination is not proceeding on the date scheduled.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2012)*

**17.08 ORDERS AND JUDGMENTS SUBMITTED AFTER HEARING**

- A. The party directed by the court shall prepare the findings and order after hearing, judgment and order in accordance with the court's decision, or stipulation put on the record and shall submit it to opposing counsel/party for objection or approval pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1312 and Rule 5.125.
- B. The Court may require any party submitting a proposed order after hearing who does not obtain approval as to form from opposing counsel to submit a transcript to the Court with a cover letter explaining why it was submitted without such approval.
- C. If the parties require a transcript of the proceedings to resolve disputes over the form of order, the judge is to be advised that the transcript has been ordered and the expected date of availability of the transcript.
- D. Failure to submit Orders After Hearing in a timely manner may result in the imposition of sanctions.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 18**

**JURY RULES**

**18.01 JURY COMMISSIONER**

In the opinion of a majority of the judges, the business of the Court requires the appointment of a Jury Commissioner to perform the functions of Jury Commissioner provided for by law and these rules. The Superior Court Executive Officer shall act as Jury Commissioner and is designated as the "attache" of the Court to perform the functions of Jury Commissioner. Said functions may be performed by such Deputies as may be designated by the Executive Officer.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**18.02 JURY SELECTION PROGRAM**

- A. Source Lists. The Jury Commissioner shall prepare and keep a consolidated, master list of eligible juror candidates. The list shall be drawn from source lists comprised of the name and address of persons who reside in the County, and who are 18 years of age or older, shall include those who are registered voters, and those who have been licensed or issued an identification card pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 12800) and Article 5 (commencing with Section 13000) of Chapter 1 of Division 6 of the Vehicle Code. The master list shall be prepared so as to avoid as much as possible duplication of eligible juror candidates and to exclude those persons who completed jury service in the prior two calendar years.
- B. Consolidated Master List. A consolidated, countywide master list shall be utilized by the Jury Commissioner in summoning jurors for the Courts in the Salinas, Monterey, King City, and Marina courthouse locations. The selection of the master jury list shall be at random from the jury source lists.
- C. Preparation of Prospective Juror Lists. Except for a person nominated by the Court pursuant to statutory authority therefore, the name of each prospective trial juror shall be taken by random selection from the most current master jury list.
- D. Drawing of Names; Summons. The Jury Commissioner will draw from the master jury list a sufficient number of names of prospective jurors as he or she determines to be required to provide adequate jury services to the Courts for a particular time period, and each person shall be summoned by first class mail to attend the Court for service as a member of a trial jury panel. Once a juror has appeared for service, and prior to his or her discharge as a juror as heretofore provided, such juror may be required to report back to the Court for further service upon either personal or telephonic oral direction of the Court, or of the Jury Commissioner or Deputy Jury Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Court.
- E. Combined Jury Panels. The Courts will utilize a combined, countywide jury panel for Superior Court trials at all court locations. *(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003)*

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**18.03 JURY UTILIZATION PROGRAM**

- A. Excuse from Jury Service. The Jury Commissioner shall determine the statutory qualifications of each prospective trial juror. He or she shall exclude from the certified jury lists any person he or she shall find is not statutorily competent to serve, and may excuse from jury service such prospective trial juror who in his or her determination requests and qualifies for excuse under Sections 204(b) and 218 of the Code of Civil Procedure, provisions of the Standards of Judicial Administration, California Rules of Court, and of these Rules and policies adopted by the Superior Court.
- B. Procedure for Excuse from Jury Service. The Jury Commissioner may, upon request, defer the service of a prospective juror for good cause, transfer a juror to any court location within the county for good cause, or may excuse a prospective juror from service altogether, for either of the following reasons:
1. The prospective juror qualifies for excuse from service on the basis of one of the categories set forth in the Standards of Judicial Administration, California Rules of Court as interpreted by Superior Court policies.
  2. Other circumstances constituting undue hardship within the meaning of the statutes, Standards of Judicial Administration, or rules or policies of this Court apply to the prospective trial juror, as determined by the Jury Commissioner and/or Presiding Judge of the Court.

A request for excuse from jury service shall be addressed to and determined by the Jury Commissioner. The Jury Commissioner shall fairly weigh and consider all relevant information and he or she may personally interview the prospective trial juror when he or she deems it desirable or necessary to do so. The Jury Commissioner may refer any request to the Presiding Judge for his or her determination. In the event the Jury Commissioner should deny a request for excuse the prospective trial juror may request and shall be entitled to review and reconsideration by the Presiding Judge. The disposition of the request and the reasons therefor shall be noted upon appropriate records maintained by the Jury Commissioner.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**18.04 SPECIAL VENIRE**

Nothing contained in the foregoing rules shall preclude the Jury Commissioner, upon order of the Court, from drawing from the master jury list and summoning to the Court pursuant to law, a special venire for jury service in a particular case.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**18.05 DEPOSIT AND REFUND OF JURY FEES**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2003, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

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**CHAPTER 19**

**MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

**19.01 CONFORMING COPIES**

The Superior Court Clerk will conform a maximum of two copies of any document at the time of filing. Additional copies will be provided by photocopying and the standard Superior Court Clerk fee for copies will be charged.

**A. CONFORMING COPIES – CIVIL DIVISION**

If a conformed copy is desired an additional copy or copies must be submitted. The Superior Court Clerk will conform a maximum of two copies at the time of filing. Parties requesting that the Clerk's Office mail them conformed copies of their filings must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope of proper size and with sufficient postage.

If the envelope provided or the postage is insufficient to mail the entire conformed copy, only the face of the pleading will be mailed and the conformed copy will be placed in the attorney/pro per pick up box for thirty (30) days.

If no envelope is provided, the conformed copy or copies will be placed in the attorney/pro per pick up box for thirty (30) days. The pickup area is located in the lobby of the first floor Clerk's Office.

*(Rule 19.01 Peremptory challenge repealed effective July 1, 2010. New rule 19.01 adopted effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**19.02 SANCTIONS**

Failure to comply with these rules and the California Rules of Court may result in the imposition of sanctions in the discretion of the Court including but not limited to:

- A. The matter being dropped from the calendar.
- B. A fine ordered paid to the Clerk of the Court by the responsible party and/or counsel.
- C. Costs, actual expenses, counsel fees or any or all thereof arising therefrom.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998)*

**19.03 RECORDING IN COURTS**

No electronic recording of court proceedings other than by the official court reporting methods shall be permitted without approval of the Court.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2004)*

**19.04 PROPOSED ORDERS**

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998, Repealed effective July 1, 2013)*

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**19.05 EXHIBITS**

Evidence admitted in any case before any court shall be only those items required in the case and shall be retained by the court for the minimum time required by law, unless good cause is shown to retain the evidence. No exhibit shall be received by any court if the exhibit poses a security, storage, safety, or health problem. (Penal Code section 1417)

A. Exhibits which will not be received include, but are not limited to:

1. Any type of explosive powder;
2. Explosive chemicals, toluene, ethane;
3. Explosive devices, such as grenades or pipe bombs;
4. Flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, paint thinner, ethyl-ether;
5. Canisters containing tear gas, mace;
6. Rags which have been soaked with flammable liquids;
7. Liquid drugs such as phencyclidine (PCP), methamphetamine, corrosive liquids, pyrrolidine, morpholine, or piperidine; and
8. Samples of any bodily fluids, liquid or dried.

B. No exhibits shall be accepted by the exhibits custodian unless:

1. All containers with liquid substances are clearly marked and identified as to type and amount;
2. All containers of controlled substances are clearly marked, identified, weighed, and sealed;
3. All cash is specifically identified, whether individually or packaged, as to the total amount and number of each denomination;
4. All firearms are secured by a nylon tie or trigger guard; and
5. All hypodermic needles are placed in containers which will safeguard personnel.

Unless otherwise ordered, unidentified liquids, containers, controlled substances, or other suspect substances shall be returned to the party offering them.

C. A court, in its discretion, may admit any exhibit in the interest of justice. However, the following rules will be taken into consideration prior to approval.

1. Photographs. Original photographs shall be substituted for any photographically enlarged exhibits. A court, in its discretion, may order a photograph substituted for large or bulky exhibits which might pose a storage problem.

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2. Diagrams and Charts. Diagrams and charts shall not exceed 27"x40", without prior order of the Court. Attorneys are encouraged to use the Court's overhead projector and video cassette recording equipment when presenting evidence in the courtroom.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective July 1, 2000)*

**19.06 USE OF CORRECTION FLUID OR TAPE ON DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS**

Correction fluid or tape shall not be used to correct errors in dates, monetary amounts, signatures, names of parties, or legal descriptions on any documents or papers, of any nature, presented for filing as part of the official court file. Documents or papers presented for filing with such errors corrected with correction fluid or tape shall be refused for filing by the Clerk of the Court, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The purpose of this rule is to ensure the long-term integrity of court documents which might otherwise be compromised by the decomposition of masking materials; nothing in this rule is intended to constrain the form or format of documents presented for filing, as alternative methods of document correction are available.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2002; Amended effective July 1, 2007; Amended effective January 1, 2011)*

**19.07 TAPING AND EDITING RULES FOR VIDEO DEPOSITIONS**

In addition to the requirements of Civil Code of Procedure section 2025.340, the following rules shall be followed regarding the taping and editing of video depositions.

**A. TAPING OF VIDEO DEPOSITION:**

1. Head and shoulders view of witness only;
2. No split screen allowed;
3. A plain background shall be used; no photographs or pictures shall be in the background;
4. Only normal room lighting shall be used; no additional lighting shall be used without court permission or agreement of opposing counsel; and
5. The running time for the tape shall be displayed at the bottom of the picture.

**B. EDITING OF VIDEO DEPOSITION:**

1. Full questions and answers are required;
2. Pauses shall remain in questions and answers;
3. Pauses at end of answer and before next question may be edited out;
4. Introduction of subject matter for a section of tape by non-argumentative description is allowed (e.g., voice over of trial counsel or character display);
5. Objections and comments of counsel on record shall be edited out;

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6. An edited version of the video deposition shall be exchanged with counsel 30 days before the pre-trial or settlement conference;
7. Sections of the video deposition offered for impeachment must comply with these taping and editing rules, but exchange between counsel is not required before trial; and
8. At the time of the use of impeaching material, opposing counsel and the court must be provided with marked transcript pages or pages and line numbers.

*(Adopted effective October 1, 1998; Amended effective January 1, 2008)*

**19.08 COPIES OF PLEADINGS, JUDGMENTS AND ORDERS**

Attorneys and self-represented litigants must comply with the requirements for submission of pleadings, orders and judgments and the required number of copies as set forth in Local Rule 17.06.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2009)*

**19.09 LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANTS**

All legal document assistants as defined by Business & Professions Code section 22440 et. seq. (Immigration Consultants), or Business & Professions Code section 6400 et. seq. (Legal Document Assistants and Unlawful Detainer Assistants) shall comply with the requirements of Business & Professions Code section 6408. Business & Professions Code section 6408 states: "The registrant's name, business address, telephone number, registration number, and county of registration, shall appear on any ... appropriate papers or documents prepared by the registrant, including, but not limited to, contracts...documents, forms, claims, petitions,... and pleadings."

Failure to comply with Business & Professions Code section 6408 will be treated the same as failure to comply with Rule 2.100-119 of the California Rules of Court. The Clerk of the Court shall not accept for filing or file any papers which do not comply with this rule, but for good cause shown the court may permit the filing of papers which do not comply.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2000; Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**19.10 ONLINE AND HOME STUDY TRAFFIC SCHOOL COURSES**

Court-approved online and home study courses are authorized only in adult cases and not in juvenile traffic matters.

*(Adopted effective March 26, 2001; Amended effective January 1, 2008; Amended effective July 1, 2010, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

**19.11 COURT REPORTING SERVICES**

Pursuant to California Rules of Court 2.956, and Government code Section 68086, the Court hereby adopts the following policy as a local rule. (Amended effective January 1, 2007)

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The Court provides services of official court reporters in all criminal and juvenile matters as required by law during regular court hours. Court reporting services will not be available for the Department of Child Support Services calendar.

Court reporting services are not available during a trial in civil cases except the court will generally provide said services during regular weekly scheduled court calendars unless said services are required in a criminal and/or juvenile matter. "Civil case" includes all matters other than criminal and juvenile matters.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2003; Amended effective April 1, 2003; Amended effective January 1, 2005; Amended effective January 1, 2007)*

**19.12 FILING OF CASES**

Cases within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey may be delivered to the Salinas, King City, Marina or Monterey Courthouse, but will be filed only in the location of appropriate jurisdiction. Cases delivered to a court location that does not have current jurisdiction shall be date stamped as "received" and transported by Court courier to the appropriate division location. Any such case shall be deemed "filed" at the date and time it is "received" stamped at any authorized courthouse. All new complaints and/or documents submitted for filing shall be deemed not filed if after careful review are found to be incomplete and/or filings fees were not submitted and will be returned unprocessed to the submitting party.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2006)*

**19.13 INTERPRETER SERVICES**

Interpreters will not be provided for civil or small claims matters, unless required by law or court order. Any party requiring the services of an interpreter shall be responsible for arranging and paying for the services of such interpreter.

*(Adopted Effective January 1, 2005)*

**19.14 MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS**

A. Requests for Coverage.

Requests for media coverage are governed by California Rules of Court, Rule 1.150. The rules, forms and policy are available on the court's Public Website [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov) under the Media tab or through the Clerk's office.

B. Limitations on Recording:

Consistent with the limitations set forth in the California Rules of Court, the video or audio recording in the courtroom of any victim or witness, other than a defendant in a criminal case, is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the court. This rule shall apply to all images and statements of a victim or witness in court, whether live or prerecorded.

*(Adopted effective January 1, 2010)*

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**19.15 JUDICIAL DISQUALIFICATION**

Reassignment upon disqualification of a judicial officer or for other cause: When a judicial officer is disqualified, either on peremptory challenge or for cause, the matter will be referred for reassignment by the Presiding Judge or designee.

*(Adopted effective July 1, 2012, Amended effective July 1, 2013)*

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