



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MADERA**

COURT ADMINISTRATION

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

HON. DALE J. BLEA
PRESIDING JUDGE

HON. ERNEST J. LICASI
ASST PRESIDING JUDGE

ADRIENNE Y. CALIP
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AMY DOWNEY
ASST COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**POLICY STATEMENT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MADERA: WEARING OF FACE COVERING INSIDE THE
COURTHOUSE AND COURT PARKING STRUCTURE**

On March 4, 2020, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act¹ (CESA), Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring that a state of emergency exists in California as a result of the threat and continuing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in this state. On June 18, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an order which requires the wearing of face coverings in specified situations. Those situations relevant to court operations include when persons are (1) “inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space,” and (2) “engaged in work . . . when interacting in-person with any member of the public; working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time; . . . (and) working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators and parking facilities.”

Pursuant to section 8567, subdivision (a), of the Government Code, the governor may make orders and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the CESA. Such orders shall have the force and effect of law. (*Ibid.*) Any person who refuses or willfully neglects to obey the orders is guilty of a misdemeanor.²

It is the duty and responsibility of this court to fairly and impartially apply the law in matters presented to the court for decision without bias or prejudice based on disability, gender, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status or one’s vocation or profession.

Accordingly, it is the policy of this court to fairly and impartially enforce the all orders of the governor during the current state of emergency and to do so in a fair and unbiased manner. The current emergency order requiring all persons wear face coverings when engaged in work requiring interaction with the public and in spaces visited by members of the public and while in common areas of buildings and parking structures will be enforced within the Madera County Courthouse and parking structures.

¹ Government Code §8550, et seq.

² Government Code §8665.

Persons who believe that conditions or circumstances warrant an exception to the governor's order may request an exemption from application of the order. This request is made to the presiding judge, or his designee, by presenting medical certification stating that the individual should be exempted from wearing a face covering due to an existing medical or mental health condition and instead wear a clear face shield.

If the exemption is denied, the individual may present a request for accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act to the court's ADA coordinator. This process is initiated by submitting a Request for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities and Response (JCC Form MC-410), or substantially similar written document, to the ADA coordinator. The court refers persons seeking such accommodation to Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court.

Any accommodating granted will take into consideration the health and safety of all court users, visitors, employees and staff and may include, without limitation, permitting remote appearances through available technology, wearing of clear face shields and waivers of personal appearances in court.