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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA

**GENERAL ORDER RE: MADERA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
MITIGATION OF THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation 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 March 16, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20-28 waiving time limitations concerning protections against residential evictions set for the in Penal Code section 396.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a “shelter in place” order directing all residents immediately to heed current State public health directives to stay home, except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Californians.

In an effort to address this unprecedented challenge to the operation of the Superior Court of California, County of Madera, and to balance the constitutional right of due process with the health and safety of court users and court staff, I hereby issue the following general orders:

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- 1 1. All civil proceedings currently scheduled between March 23, 2020 and April 17, 2020, are  
2 continued for eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.
- 3 2. Exceptions to the continuance of all civil proceedings include the following matters:  
4 a. requests for temporary restraining orders in which unlawful violence or the credible  
5 threat of violence has occurred;  
6 b. requests for emergency ex parte probate matters; and  
7 c. all statutorily mandated hearings.
- 8 3. All civil hearings between March 23, 2020 and April 17, 2020, will be heard in  
9 Department 45.
- 10 4. All misdemeanor and felony proceedings in which a time waiver has been entered and the  
11 defendant is out of custody, that are scheduled between March 23, 2020 and April 17,  
12 2020, are continued for eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.
- 13 5. The time period provided in Penal Code section 1382 for the holding of criminal trials,  
14 including felony, misdemeanor and infraction matters, is extended by not more than 30  
15 days for all cases in which the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 23,  
16 2020 to April 17, 2020, inclusive.
- 17 6. All necessary hearings, including arraignments and preliminary hearings, involving  
18 defendants who are in custody shall be heard by video remote conferencing in Department  
19 23. No defendants are to be transported from the Madera County Department of  
20 Corrections to the court absent order of the presiding judge or his designee.
- 21 7. All hearings involving defendants who are not in custody shall be heard in Department 22.
- 22 8. All out-of-custody criminal arraignments that are scheduled between March 23, 2020 and  
23 April 17, 2020, are continued for eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.
- 24 9. All specialty court reviews, including drug court, behavioral health court and veterans'  
25 court that are scheduled between March 23, 2020 and April 17, 2020, are continued for  
26 eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.

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- 1 10. All proceedings in the family law department currently scheduled between March 23, 2020  
2 and April 17, 2020, are continued for eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.
- 3 11. Exceptions to the continuance of all family law proceedings include the following matters:  
4 a. requests for domestic violence restraining orders;  
5 b. temporary guardianship proceedings in which the child's health or safety is at risk.
- 6 12. All family law hearings between March 23, 2020 and April 17, 2020, will be heard in  
7 Department 37.
- 8 13. Day-of-court mediation services are suspended until further notice.
- 9 14. All mediation services provided by Family Court Services between March 23, 2020 and  
10 April 17, 2020, shall be conducted telephonically unless in-person mediation is specifically  
11 ordered by the court.
- 12 15. The self-help office is closed for in-person appointments between March 23, 2020 and  
13 April 17, 2020 unless specifically ordered by the court.
- 14 16. Notwithstanding Madera County Superior Court, Local Rule 2.4.6, all applications for ex  
15 parte relief filed between March 23, 2020 and April 17, 2020, shall be submitted to the  
16 court before notice of hearing is provided to the opposing party. A judicial officer will  
17 review the application and a judicial assistant will notify the applicant if notice to the  
18 opposing party and a court appearance is required. If a hearing date is ordered by the  
19 judicial officer, the person applying for ex parte relief must notify the opposing party no  
20 later than 10:00 a.m. the court day before the hearing date ordered, unless the judicial  
21 officer finds good cause to dispense with such notice.
- 22 17. All hearings in the appellate department that are scheduled between March 23, 2020 and  
23 April 17, 2020, are continued for eight weeks from the currently scheduled date.
- 24 18. All traffic trials in which a time waiver has been entered are continued for eight weeks  
25 from the currently scheduled date.

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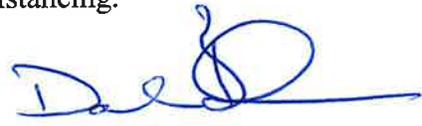
19. Dates for payment of fines or appearance in court on traffic citations are continued 26 weeks from the date listed on the citation or the courtesy notice, whichever is later.

20. All payment plans for the payment of fines are extended 60 days before finding the payments delinquent and referring the matters to collections.

21. All visitors to the courthouse must maintain an appropriate social distance of six feet between the visitor and other persons at all time whether in a courtroom or in common areas.

22. Each judicial officer retains discretion to deviate from the foregoing orders upon a finding of good cause and in keeping with the intent of these orders to comply with the emergency orders of the governor and the directives of public health officials, including but not limited to limitations on gathering size and social distancing.

DATED: 3-23-20



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Judge of the Superior Court