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

THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL ORDER - MADERA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CONTINUING OPERATIONS OF THE MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY

This General Order supersedes this court's Twelfth General Order

On April 24, 2020, this court issued its Twelfth General Order relating to the resumption of grand jury proceedings, which included specific terms and conditions to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

In recent months, the transmission of COVID-19 has drastically decreased at both the State and local levels, and on June 15, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom officially 'Reopened California.'

With the June 30, 2021 impaneling of the 2021-22 Madera County Grand Jury, I hereby issue the following general order:

Pursuant to guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (also known as CalOSHA), proceedings (including investigations) of the Madera County Grand Jury can fully resume and will adhere to certain preventative measures that continue to mitigate the risk of COVID transmission as follows:

 a. all in-person meetings, investigations, conferences and sessions, of whatever nature (hereinafter referred to as 'in-person meetings'), do not have to adhere to the prior COVID-19 six (6) foot distancing requirement.

- b. in-person meetings shall adhere to the masking/face covering provisions prescribed below:
 - i. individuals who are fully-vaccinated shall not be required to wear a face mask/face covering.
 - ii. individuals who are not fully-vaccinated shall be required to wear a face mask/face covering.
 - iii. any face mask/face covering utilized during in-person meetings shall consist of at least 2-layers.
- c. the grand jury may continue to use available technology, such as video or audio conferencing, when in-person meetings are impractical or when the conditions in paragraphs b.i., b.ii., and b.iii. cannot otherwise be met.
- d. all interviews of witnesses before the grand jury may be conducted by video or audio conferencing technology that is available to the witness and all grand jurors in attendance when in-person interviews are impractical or when the conditions in paragraphs b.i., b.ii., and b.iii. cannot otherwise be met.
- e. no grand juror shall report to in-person meetings with symptoms of COVID-19.
- f. no witness, or any other person conducting in-person business with the grand jury or a member of the grand jury, shall report for in-person meetings with symptoms of COVID-19.
- g. the grand jury foreperson, committee chairperson, or his or her designee must ensure that meetings are conducted pursuant to this general order and that meetings conducted through the use of video or audio conferencing are conducted in an orderly manner, with all grand jurors having the opportunity to be heard and express their thoughts and views.
- h. the grand jury foreperson shall submit a written request to the Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury if he/she would like the foregoing provisions of this general order reviewed for the purpose of possible revisions.

DATED: June 29, 2021

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court