



# SUPERIOR COURT

COUNTY OF MADERA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER SERVICES

Due to a statewide shortage of court reporters, the Superior Court of Madera County (Court) can no longer assure the provision of official court reporters for all proceedings on a daily basis. Although official court reporters remain “normally available” (Cal. Rules of Ct., rule 2.956(b)(3)), they can no longer be guaranteed for all non-mandated proceedings. While the Court will continue to strive to provide official court reporters for all proceedings on a daily basis, effective immediately, the Court will prioritize official court reporter availability as follows:

Official court reporters are statutorily mandated, and will continue to be provided, for the following matters:

- Felony Criminal;
- Juvenile;
- Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act;
- Family court matters where an official court reporter is mandated, such as requests to withdraw consent to an adoption, child testimony in chambers, and petitions to free a minor from parental care and control; and
- Cases in which an official court reporter is required by the California Supreme Court opinion in the case of *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal.4th 594.

Official court reporters are not statutorily required to be provided in civil, family law, misdemeanor criminal, and infraction matters. Consequently, given the likelihood under the present circumstances that the Court will not be able to provide an official court reporter, parties to a civil, family law, or probate matter who want to memorialize a hearing or trial may arrange, at their own expense, for the presence of a court reporter. (See Gov. Code, §68086, subd. (d)(2); Cal. Rules of Ct., rule 2.956 (b)(3), (c)). If the services of an official court reporter will not be available during a hearing on law and motion or other non-trial matters in civil cases, it will be noted on the Court’s official calendar (See Cal. Rules of Ct., rule 2.956 (b)(4)).

For the present, the court will continue to provide official court reporters for misdemeanor criminal matters, as well as contempt in civil and family law matters; however, when an official court reporter is not available, limited civil, misdemeanor traffic and infraction matters may be electronically recorded to make the official record pursuant to Government Code section 69957 and California Rules of Court, rules 2.952 and 2.956(c). With the exception of limited civil, misdemeanor and infraction cases, Government Code section 69957 prohibits the court from providing electronic recording in civil, family law, and probate court rooms.

Parties with fee waivers may request an official court reporter pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.956(c)(2). The law requires the Court to provide a court reporter when a litigant with a fee waiver has timely-filed a request for a court reporter, but only when a court reporter is available, and the court is not electronically recording the hearing or trial. (See *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal<sup>4</sup>th 594; Cal. Rules of Ct., rule 2.956(c)(2)(A-D).)

Given the limited availability of official court reporters, notice of availability of a court reporter may not be given until the day of the hearing.

Note that an official Order from the Presiding Judge is forthcoming.