



Superior Court of California County of Fresno



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Fresno Superior Court will be restoring some of its previously restricted services on June 15, 2020. The Court has continued to operate at a limited capacity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, hearing only certain in-custody and urgent matters, most of which were conducted remotely via Zoom. Beginning next week, the court will resume hearing out-of-custody matters as well. Though some of these matters may be heard in person, restricted public access will remain. Only those required to appear for a scheduled court hearing, including litigants, their counsel, subpoenaed witnesses, victims and advocates will be permitted to enter the buildings, and only once they have passed both health and security screening (a series of health questions, temperature check, required face mask/facial coverings and pass through a metal detector).

To ensure that individuals enter the building in a safe and appropriate manner, the Court has implemented a new process for entry to the Main Courthouse. The B1 moat entry, located on the west side of the building on the exterior B1 level, will be the only location to allow non-court individuals access to the building. After screening, parties will proceed to the B1 Action Center for triage. There, staff will direct them to the appropriate courtroom for their hearing or direct them to the appropriate window to have their questions addressed.

Many hearings will proceed remotely, as has been the process over the past several weeks, with proceedings live streamed for public access. Any in-person hearings will be conducted with a number of safety measures in place, including required social distancing, face covering and limited occupancy in the courtrooms. Court users are required to wear a facial covering at all times while in a Fresno County Courthouse.

Jury trials will resume on a limited basis. Jurors should only appear if directed to do so. No walk in jurors will be permitted. Reporting jurors will also be required to pass a health screening and must wear a face mask/facial covering for entry. More information regarding changes to jury service will be made available on the Court's website in the coming weeks.

The clerk's offices will remain closed until further notice. Upon reopening, a number of increased safety measures will be in place, such as sneeze guards and protective shielding. Staff

will continue to wear facial covering. Social distancing will be observed in the offices and lobby areas. The children's waiting rooms at the B.F. Sisk Courthouse and the Main Courthouse are closed and will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Court users will need to make other arrangements for childcare.

As has been the practice thus far, the Court will continue to clean and sanitize all public and work areas on a heightened schedule. Please visit www.fresno.courts.ca.gov for updated information.

The Fresno Superior Court continues to take public health and safety seriously and has implemented aggressive policies to prevent the risk of infection for staff, jurors, and other court users.

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