

CIVIL, CRIMINAL & MISCELLANEOUS

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CHAPTER 2. CIVIL RULES

RULE 2.2 CIVIL LAW AND MOTION

2.2.4 Remote Appearances

When remote appearances are allowed, attorneys or parties may utilize the designated audio or video platform as identified by the Court. Attorneys or parties may appear by "CourtCall," by making prior arrangements with the private company that administers the program. CourtCall may be arranged by calling (888) 882-6878, or the telephone number of any other vendor as approved by the Court. Attorneys or parties appearing remotely by video will receive the appropriate information via the email address provided in the Notice of Remote Appearance. (see Local Rule 4.1.2(D)(7)). ~~granted a remote appearance for video will receive the appropriate information via the email address provided in the original request. All requests for remote appearances must be submitted as set forth in The Superior Court of Fresno County, Local Rules.~~

(Effective July 1, 2026 2025; Rule 2.2.5 (now 2.2.4) renumbered effective July 1, 2020; adopted as Rule 4.5 effective July 1, 2000)

2.11.1 Commencing a Assignment of CEQA Cases

A. **Civil Case Cover Sheet.** When the petition is filed, the Civil Case Cover sheet filed must check the box for Miscellaneous Civil Petition and "Other petition" (not specified above) and indicate it is a CEQA case.

B.A. **Judge for All Purposes.** Unless otherwise provided in these rules or ordered by the Presiding Judge or Supervising Judge, all CEQA cases will be assigned to a single judge for all purposes including trial.

C.B. **Notice of Assignment.** A Notice of Assignment indicating the name and department number of the assigned judge, as well as the assigned judge's departmental schedule for noticed motions and ex parte applications, will be prepared by the court. The Notice of Assignment will be issued by the clerk to the petitioner in the same manner as for an ordinary civil unlimited complaint. If the petition is combined with a complaint for injunctive and/or declaratory relief, the assignment shall apply to the complaint as well as the petition.

D.C. **Service of Notices.** The petitioner must serve the notice of assignment and the case management conference notice on each named respondent either when

that respondent is served with the summons and petition, or within 2 business days of the petitioner's receipt of the notice of assignment from the court. The petitioner shall promptly file all proofs of service thereof with the court.

E.D. Designation of Assigned Judge in Subsequent Documents. After a CEQA case is assigned, all subsequent documents must state on the face page, under the case number, the following:

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:
JUDGE [insert name]
DEPARTMENT [insert number]

F.E. Unavailability of Assigned Judge. In the event of the temporary unavailability of the judge assigned to a CEQA case for all purposes, another judge may be assigned to hear matters in that case. Until and unless the court issues an order or notice revoking the existing single assignment or assigning a new judge for all purposes, any hearing that may take place before another judge does not affect the status of the case as originally assigned for all purposes. (Effective July 1, 2026 2025; adopted as Rule 2.11.1 effective July 1, 2011)

2.11.2 Notice of Case Management Conference

A. ~~When the petition is filed, the Civil Case Cover Sheet filed must check the box for Miscellaneous Civil Petition and "Other petition" (not specified above) and indicate it is a CEQA case.~~

A.B. At the time the petition is processed by the Clerk's Office after it is filed, the clerk will issue a notice of case management conference to petitioner, designating a date for a case management conference that is approximately 120 days after the filing of the petition. Petitioner shall serve a copy of the notice of case management conference on each respondent and real party in interest along with the summons and the petition. The Court's issuance of a notice of case management conference hearing date does not excuse petitioner from mandatory compliance with Public Resources Code section 21167.4, subdivision (a).

B.C. All parties are required to appear at the case management conference. The person attending the conference shall have sufficient understanding of the case and sufficient authority to make decisions and agreements.

C.D. In anticipation of the case management conference, the parties should be prepared to discuss at the hearing and submit written case management conference statements (in prose and details, not using the standardized Judicial Council form) seven (7) court days before the case management conference, as to the following:

1. Status of service upon or appearance by real parties in interest.

2. Status of the administrative record.
3. Status of settlement conference, and whether the parties believe that an early settlement conference before their assigned judge would be beneficial (a waiver under Public Resources Code § 21167, subdivision (d) will be required).
4. Anticipated motions, including briefing schedule and proposed hearing dates.
5. Setting of hearing/trial on the merits.
6. The need to set further case status hearing dates. (Effective July 1, 2026 2017; adopted as Rule 2.11.2 effective January 1, 2017)

CHAPTER 3. CRIMINAL RULES

RULE 3.1 GENERAL CRIMINAL RULES

3.1.8 Attorney, Expert and Investigation Fees

- A. Any application or motion by retained counsel to continue representation as appointed counsel in a criminal case shall be made to the Presiding Judge or their designee.
- B. The fees for an attorney appointed to represent a defendant in a criminal case, the investigator and interpreter fees and fees for medical, psychological and psychiatric services are governed by the Fresno County Courts Appointed Counsel/Expert General Claim Processing Practices, a copy of which is available from the Clerk. (Effective July 1, 2026 2007; Rule 3.1.9 (now 3.1.8) renumbered effective January 1, 2006; adopted as Rule 14.9 effective July 1, 2000)

CHAPTER 4. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

RULE 4.1 RULES OF GENERAL APPLICATION

4.1.2 Electronic Filing

- A. No Change.
- B. No Change.

C. No Change.

D. **Rules Applicable to Eligible Case Types**

1. No Change.
2. No Change.
3. No Change.
4. No Change.
5. No Change.
6. No Change.

7. **Remote Appearance.** ~~A The Notice of Remote Appearance (form RA-010), along with the Declaration of Notice or a proof of service, shall be filed for each hearing at which a party intends to appear remotely. in a separate e-filing envelope. A proposed Order Regarding Remote Appearance (form RA-020) is not required to be filed. In response to the filing, attorneys or parties will receive appropriate information from the Court via the email address provided in the Notice. must also be filed with the Notice of Remote Appearance in all Civil and Family Law matters.~~

~~When your case is called, your camera must be on. If your camera is off, you may be dropped from the hearing. Consistent with your Notice, you must "conduct yourself as though appearing in court in person." "Conduct" means an appropriate background, lack of noise and other distractions and professional dress.~~

~~Per Local Rule 2.2.4, any party appearing telephonically by "CourtCall," must contact CourtCall by 11:00 a.m. the day of the hearing. If the party does not, the remote appearance shall be denied and the party must appear in court in person.~~

~~Per Local Rules 2.5.5, 2.5.8 and 2.6.2(B), and unless otherwise excused, all attorneys and parties shall be personally present for all trial related dates including Mandatory Settlement Conferences, Trial Readiness, and Trial. The Court has determined that in person appearances for those matters would materially assist the Court in the determination of the proceeding and in the effective management or resolution of the case. (Local Rule 1.1.12 and Code Civ. Proc. § 367.75, subd. (b)(3).)~~

Remote appearances are permitted in civil harassment proceedings as authorized by Code of Civil Procedure section 527.6 and Family Code section 6308. Parties may appear by the designated audio or video platform identified by the Court, including CourtCall or any other vendor approved by the Court. Remote appearance information will be provided to the attorneys or parties at the email address listed in the Notice of Remote Appearance. All Notices in harassment proceedings shall be submitted as set forth in these Local Rules.

The Court may, at any time and in its discretion, require an attorney or party to appear in person. If a personal appearance is required, the attorney or party will be notified by minute order, tentative ruling, or any other means designated by the Court.

E. No Change.

F. No Change.

G. No Change.

(Effective ~~July 1, 2026~~ January 1, 2024; adopted as Rule 4.1.13 effective January 1, 2016)