



**Superior Court of California
County of Fresno**

Michael L. Elliott
Executive Officer / Clerk / Jury Commissioner

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NOTICE

**Amended Emergency Family Law Rule in Response
to COVID-19 – Remote Hearings**

**RULE 5.13 EMERGENCY FAMILY LAW RULE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 –
REMOTE HEARINGS**

A. Pursuant to the March 23, 2020, and March 30, 2020, orders of the Chief Justice of California, for the safety of all parties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, priority family law proceedings may be conducted remotely until further notice. Priority matters will be heard by videoconference/phone during the COVID-19 crisis, using Zoom, and live-streamed on the Fresno Superior Court's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1QI1GyLuShmXKOhqJbxgqQ>. Appearance by Zoom is free. Instructions for how to attend a hearing remotely by Zoom can be found at <http://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/family/>. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Family Law Zoom Coordinator at (559) 457-1702 or email at famlawzoomcoordinator@fresno.courts.ca.gov. Any person wishing to appear remotely, but lacking internet access, may appear by phone by calling the phone number that will be provided in the Notice of Calendar Setting, which will be mailed to the parties by the Court.

B. Judges and staff will appear remotely. Parties, attorneys, and witnesses may continue to appear in person at the courthouse; others will not be admitted to the courthouse. However, the Court strongly encourages all to participate remotely. Any petitioning party attending a priority hearing in person must serve on the responding party the Zoom information provided to the petitioning party at filing so that the responding party may appear remotely if they wish to do so.

C. Documentary evidence to be considered at the hearing must be filed before the hearing. If documents are not filed before the hearing, the hearing may be continued and/or the information may not be considered.

D. Any recording of a court proceeding held remotely, including screen-shots or other visual or audio copying of a hearing, is prohibited.

E. At the discretion of the Court, priority family law proceedings that are subject to this rule are:

- a. Readiness hearings,
- b. Return readiness hearings,
- c. Law and motion hearings,
- d. Restraining order hearings, and
- e. Commencing June 29, 2020, all child support related hearings in Departments 301 and 302, excluding contempt proceedings. (Effective May 20, 2020; adopted as Rule 5.13 effective May 18, 2020)