

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO
CENTRAL DIVISION

ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE RE )
PROBATE MATTERS AND TRIAL DATES )
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC )

GENERAL ORDER

Due to the numerous public health and safety concerns the COVID-19 pandemic presents, and the proclamations of a state of emergency by Governor Newsom and President Trump,

THIS COURT HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE FOLLOWING:

All clerk's offices in the B.F. Sisk Courthouse will remain closed. Mandatory efiling remains in place. Parties shall continue to electronically file documents. Documents will be processed according to priority based on staff availability. Parties who are not required to efile are strongly encouraged to voluntarily do so to minimize the health risks associated with traveling to the Court. A drop box has been located inside the lobby of the B.F. Sisk Courthouse and will be available for filing papers Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The Court is temporarily modifying Local Rule 4.1.13(E)(2) to

allow the electronic filing of bonds in Probate cases. The filer must make every effort to deliver the original bond to the court within 10 days. See California Rules of Court 2.252(e).

With the exception of Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) jury trials, all Probate trials are being continued one hundred and twenty (120) days from the currently set date on a rolling basis. Notices will be sent regarding specific dates and times. All deadlines which are dictated by the trial date will be based upon the continued new trial date, including but not limited to, Discovery Act cutoffs and summary judgment/summary adjudication cut offs.

When a jury trial is demanded in an LPS case the matter will be set for trial. Every effort will be made to abide by the time frames set out in Welf. & Inst. Code §5350. The Court notes that the statutory deadlines in section 5350 are directory rather than mandatory. Conservatorship of James M. (1994) 30 Cal.App.4th 293; Conservatorship of M.M. (2019) 39 Cal. App. 5th 496 (accord.)

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in place until revoked.

DATED this 30TH day of July, 2020.

HONORABLE ARLAN L. HARRELL PRESIDING JUDGE, FRESNO SUPERIOR COURT