



## Superior Court of California County of Fresno

### NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN COURT REPORTER SERVICES

**Effective May 1, 2023, the Court will prioritize official court reporters for criminal felony and juvenile cases as severe shortages persist.**

Despite significant increases in trial court funding designated to hire court reporters, a statewide court reporter shortage requires the Court to shift its court reporters from family law and probate cases to felony and juvenile cases. Beginning May 1, 2023, official court reporters will no longer be provided for Probate matters or Family Law matters.

Fresno County is experiencing the same shortage as the rest of the State. Despite ongoing recruitment efforts, the number of court reporters leaving the workforce far exceeds the number of new reporters entering court service. We must focus our limited resources on the statutorily mandated case types. For this reason, the Court is amending its policy regarding the availability of official court reporters as follows:

Official court reporters are statutorily required and will be provided in felony criminal cases, juvenile cases, proceedings to declare a minor free from custody and proceedings under the Lanterman-Petris Short Act.

Official court reporters are not statutorily required and will not be provided in unlimited civil, family law or probate matters. This includes domestic violence restraining order cases. Existing court reporter coverage in these case types will end on May 1, 2023. (Court reporters were removed from unlimited civil matters several years ago.)

Official court reporters have not been provided in limited civil, misdemeanor and infractions matters for some time. These proceedings are electronically recorded to make the official record pursuant to Government Code §69957 and California Rules of Court, rules 2.952 and 2.956(c)). This authority does not permit electronic recording in unlimited civil, family law or probate matters to produce the official record.

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. 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.