



Superior Court of California County of Orange

Chambers of
ERICK L. LARSH
PRESIDING JUDGE

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

Fifth Amended Administrative Order No. 20/07

PROBATE ORDER REGARDING COURT CLOSURE

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 68115, at the Court's request, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has issued emergency orders due to the COVID-19 emergency authorizing the significant reduction of services to the public, with minimal exceptions for critical functions. The Presiding Judge therefore issued various Implementation Orders and Administrative Orders on March 17, 2020, March 23, 2020, March 24, 2020, March 27, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 26, 2020 and May 29, 2020.

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Emergency Rules and Orders, the Court hereby updates prior orders as follows:

1. The court is processing all Probate & Mental Health related filings. Due to the operational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, processing timelines may be delayed.
2. Effective February 1, 2021, the court will resume hearing in-person jury trials subject to approval by the Supervising Judge.
3. Due to various ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court will significantly limit in-person appearances. Other than jury trials, all appearances will be conducted via video using the court's designated video platform unless an in-person appearance is specifically ordered by the court. If a party does not have the ability to connect via video, the party is to call the court at 657-622-8278 to request an alternative means to appear. Further information is available on the court's COVID-19 Probate website.
4. Notice in Probate Cases
 - a. If timely service was given for a hearing on a petition that was subsequently rescheduled by the court as a result of the pandemic, parties will be required to provide new notice of the rescheduled hearing date in the same manner that the original notice had been given.

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- b. Until further notice, parties must include the following language when serving notice of hearing in all Probate cases:
- (1) You must attend the hearing by video remote using the court's designated video platform; (2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.
5. Beginning February 1, 2021, the Conservatorship Orientation Program will be available online as a video orientation. Your completion of the video orientation is mandatory prior to the hearing date on the Petition for Appointment of Conservator. The video can be found on the court's website at: <https://www.occourts.org/directory/probate> or <https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html>. If you are not able to access the video, please contact the court at 657-622-8278 or submit a question via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.
6. Until further notice, electronic submission of letters of guardianship and conservatorships will be allowed and require a signature (electronic, digital or otherwise). Letters without signatures will not be accepted for processing.
7. Until further notice, electronic submission of bonds will be allowed. The submitting party must retain possession of the original bond and make it available to the court upon request.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of February 2021, at Santa Ana California.



Erick L. Larsh
Presiding Judge