



Chambers of  
**KIRK H. NAKAMURA**  
PRESIDING JUDGE

# Superior Court of California County of Orange

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST  
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20/27** **CRIMINAL OPERATIONS UPDATE**

This Order establishes temporary changes to Criminal Operations to ensure the safe and orderly administration of justice and protect the health of those who participate in the justice system in light of the COVID-19 surge currently impacting Orange County.

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California, and the County of Orange have recognized that the world, country, state, and county face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Orange County is increasing at an alarming rate, forcing the county to return to the most restrictive tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and to be subject to a limited stay at home order. The Orange County Superior Court has seen an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 tests among court employees and justice partners. The CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Orange County Health Care Agency have recommended that individuals stay home when possible, but if it is necessary to leave the house, to avoid crowds and observe stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people to mitigate the spread of the virus.

To limit and manage the transmission of COVID-19 in the court system, the Orange County Superior Court is implementing the following changes to Criminal Operations:

Only statutorily mandated, time-sensitive jury trials will be conducted through January 1, 2021.

Pursuant to the California Rules of Court, Emergency Rules 3 and 5, with the consent of the defendant, all criminal pretrial conferences will be heard remotely, except for those cases specifically approved for resolution, motion, or other matters as determined by the Court. Remote hearings may be

held telephonically and/or via WebEx with Penal Code section 977 authority. Remote appearances can be coordinated by calling the designated hearing courtroom.

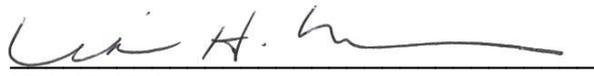
Approval to add a matter on calendar may be obtained by submitting a [Misdemeanor Action Request \(MAR\)](#) or [Felony Action Request \(FAR\)](#) form, available on the Orange County Superior Court website's COVID-19 page. A MAR or FAR form may also be submitted to request the Court to take action on a case, including: case resolution, dismissals; settlement conferences; submission of Tahl forms, plea/sentencing forms, and case advancement requests; and warrant recall requests.

Attorneys may request a continuance by following the Criminal Operations [COVID-19 Protocols](#), available on the Orange County Superior Court website's COVID-19 page.

This Order is effective December 14, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

December 10, 2020  
Date

  
Kirk H. Nakamura  
Presiding Judge