

**FILED**  
ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 14 2020

DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk of the Court

BY:  **R. BRACKEN**, DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF ORANGE – JUVENILE COURT

**IN RE COVID-19 COURT CLOSURE**

**Amended General Order No. 19:  
Re: Juvenile Court Operations  
(Supersedes General Order No. 17)**

**A. Superseding Order:**

1. General Order No. 19 supersedes General Order No. 17.
2. General Order No. 19 is based upon the following changed circumstances:
  - a. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council adopted Emergency Rules 1 through 11 of the California Rules of Court; and
  - b. On September 11, 2020, the Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California found the “conditions described in Government Code section 68115(a) continue to exist (Gov. Code, § 68115(b))”. (Hereinafter: September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order.)

**B. Order Pursuant to Government Code, section 68115:**

1. Pursuant to Government Code section 68115, on September 11, 2020, the Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California, found: “Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to health and safety concerns resulting in substantial operational impediments, and the

1           proclamations of states of emergency by Governor Newsom and President  
2           Trump, it was determined on March 16, and 26, 2020; April 24, 2020; May 26,  
3           2020; June 10 and 18, 2020; July 16, 2020 and August 13, 2020, that the  
4           conditions described in Government Code section 68115 were met with regard  
5           to the Superior Court of California, County of Orange (Court)". (September 11,  
6           2020, Section 68115 Order.) The Chief Justice further "determined that the  
7           conditions described in section 68115(a) continue to exist (Gov. Code, §  
8           68115(b))". (September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order.)

- 9           2. The September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order extends "the time period  
10           provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a  
11           minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a  
12           detention hearing to not more than three days". Such extension is "applicable  
13           only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would expire from September  
14           14, 2020, to October 9, 2020, inclusive (Gov. Code § 68115(a)(11))."
- 15           3. On September 11, 2020, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Orange  
16           County issued an "Amended Implementation Order Re: Juvenile Emergency  
17           Relief Authorized by Governor Executive Order and by the Judicial Council of  
18           California" implementing the September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order.  
19           (Hereinafter: Amended Implementation Order.)
- 20           4. The Amended Implementation Order extends the time periods provided in  
21           Welfare and Institutions Code section 315, in which a minor taken into custody  
22           pending dependency proceedings must be provided a detention hearing "to  
23           not more than 3 days" applicable only to minors for whom the statutory  
24           deadline otherwise would expire from September 14, 2020 to October 9, 2020,  
25           inclusive. (Gov. Code, § 68115(a)(11).)

1 **C. Purpose of General Order No. 19:**

- 2 1. The purpose of this general order is to advise interested parties, counsel and  
3 the general public of the conduct of the business of the Orange County  
4 Juvenile Court during the period September 14, 2020 through October 9,  
5 2020, pursuant to the September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order and  
6 Amended Implementation Order.
- 7 2. In the event a further order is issued by the Judicial Council, pursuant to  
8 Government Code section 68115, the Orange County Juvenile Court will issue  
9 additional general orders.

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11 **D. Dependency Proceedings:**

- 12 1. Pending further order of the Court, the appearance of the parties to  
13 dependency proceedings may be waived, in order to alleviate the overall  
14 number of persons within the confines of the courtroom. Additionally, pursuant  
15 to Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 3(a)(1), the "Court[ ] may require that  
16 judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely." However,  
17 the assigned juvenile court judge may require the appearance of any party or  
18 person, notwithstanding this order.
- 19 2. In order to efficiently address the backlog of contested and in-progress  
20 hearings caused by the Court's closure since March 17, 2020 and limited re-  
21 opening since May 26, 2020, counsel for the parties are to comply with  
22 Administrative Order A-200-4-2020, issued on May 18, 2020.

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24 **E. Dependency Hearings:**

- 25 1. Pursuant to the September 11, 2020, Section 68115 Order and the Amended  
26 Implementation Order, the time period provided in Welfare and Institutions  
27 Code section 315, in which a detained minor in a dependency proceeding  
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1 must be given a detention hearing is extended “to not more than 3 days”,  
2 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would  
3 expire from September 14, 2020 through October 9, inclusive. (Gov. Code, §  
4 68115(a)(11).)

- 5 2. Detention hearings concerning detained and/or non-detained children will be  
6 scheduled pursuant to Administrative Order No. A-200-5-2020 (or any  
7 amendments to Administrative Order No. A-200-5-2020).
- 8 3. As to any detained or non-detained child, Social Services Agency is ordered to  
9 file, notice and serve a petition for the conduct of a timely detention hearing.
- 10 4. Petitioner, the Social Services Agency, is ordered to make reasonable efforts  
11 to comply with all orders of the Court made at the detention hearing, including,  
12 and in particular as to, placement of a detained child.
- 13 5. The Court may conduct in-progress and contested hearings via remote  
14 technology consistent with Rules of Court, Rule 5.531 and Emergency Rules  
15 of Court, Rule 3. (Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 6(c)(1).)
- 16 6. The child[ren] and parents or custodial caregiver, and appointed or retained  
17 counsel, only, will be given access to the courthouse and designated  
18 courtroom for the purposes of conducting dependency hearings.
- 19 7. The appearance of the child[ren], parents or custodial caregiver at the  
20 dependency hearing may be waived in order to alleviate the overall number of  
21 persons within the confines of the courthouse.

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23 **F. Juvenile Justice Proceedings:**

- 24 1. Pending further order of the Court, the appearance of the parties to juvenile  
25 justice proceedings may be waived, in order to alleviate the overall number of  
26 persons within the confines of the courthouse.

1 2. Additionally, pursuant to Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 3(a)(1), the “Court[ ]  
2 may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted  
3 remotely.” However, the assigned juvenile court judge may require the  
4 appearance of any party or person, notwithstanding this order.  
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6 **G. Juvenile Justice Hearings:**

- 7 1. As to any detained minor, the District Attorney is ordered to file, notice and  
8 serve a petition for the conduct of a timely detention hearing.
- 9 2. The Orange County Probation Department, is ordered to make reasonable  
10 efforts to comply with all orders of the Court made at a youth’s detention  
11 hearing, including and in particular as to placement of a detained child.
- 12 3. The appearance of the parents or custodial caregiver of the minor in custody  
13 at a hearing may be waived, in order to alleviate the overall number of persons  
14 within the confines of the courthouse.
- 15 4. Unless there is a showing of compelling and substantial good cause, juvenile  
16 justice hearings for youth housed in the local juvenile facilities that are not  
17 contested and do not involve witness testimony will be conducted via  
18 videoconference link from the youth’s juvenile facility.
- 19 5. The youth, parents or custodial caregiver, and appointed or retained counsel,  
20 as well as the alleged victim(s), will be given access to the courthouse and  
21 designated courtroom for the youth’s hearing. Members of the public pursuant  
22 to Welfare and Institutions Code section 676 and Administrative Order A-100-  
23 2-2013, will be given access to the courthouse and designated courtroom for  
24 juvenile justice hearings concerning petitions alleging violations identified in  
25 Welfare and Institutions Code section 676, subdivision (a).  
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- 1           6. The Court may conduct court trials via remote technology consistent with  
2           Rules of Court, Rule 5.531 and Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 3.  
3           (Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 7(c)(1).)

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5       **H. Emergency Matters:**

- 6           1. In order to maintain appropriate social distancing and current COVID-19  
7           guidelines, the Juvenile Court will consider requests for orders as to matters  
8           where there is a showing of an immediate risk of injury to the physical or  
9           emotional health of a child that has a matter currently pending before the  
10          Juvenile Court or where there is a substantial probability that the child will be  
11          before the Court. (Hereinafter: "emergency matters".) These emergency  
12          matters also include psychotropic medication applications, emergency medical  
13          requests, petitions for reentry of a nonminor dependent, Welfare and  
14          Institution Code section 388 petitions that "require an immediate response  
15          based on the health and safety of the child", as described in Emergency Rules  
16          of Court, Rule 6(b)(3) through (b)6), and requests to review changes in child  
17          visitation, made by the attorney for the child or parent, pursuant to Emergency  
18          Rules of Court, Rule 6(c)(7)(A) and (B).
- 19          2. All requests for orders as to emergency matters must be made in writing, and  
20          must state with specificity:
- 21               a) The order sought to be issued by the Court;
- 22               b) The facts demonstrating the immediate risk of injury to the physical or  
23               emotional health of a child if the order sought is not issued or, where  
24               the request is to review changes in child visitation, the moving party  
25               must provide the Court with the requisite information pursuant to  
26               Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 6(c)(7)(A) and (B);

1 c) The name, address, current telephone number, and email address of  
2 the person, attorney or agency requesting an order shall be provided in  
3 the writing filed with the Court;

4 d) The notice or attempts to give notice to interested persons or agencies,  
5 as provided *infra*.

6 3. Any person or agency requesting an order as to an emergency matter shall  
7 give notice, or expend due diligence to give notice, to all interested persons  
8 and agencies, 8 hours before the request is presented to the Court, unless all  
9 parties “submit” or “agree” to the requested court action and the “submission”  
10 or “agreement” is indicated in the moving papers. Notice may be given in-  
11 person, telephonically, by email, or text message. The requests for orders  
12 shall state the efforts expended to give notice, including the date and time  
13 when such efforts were made.

14 4. In light of the limited access to the courthouse due to the health and safety  
15 concerns of COVID-19, requests for orders as to emergency matters shall be  
16 filed with the Court by email only, at [juvenilecourt@occourts.org](mailto:juvenilecourt@occourts.org). Notice of the  
17 request upon interested persons or agencies may be accomplished by any  
18 manner authorized by law.

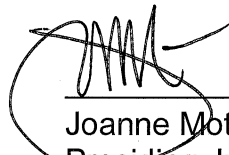
19 5. All requests for orders as to an emergency matter will be decided by the Court  
20 on the moving papers and any opposition papers only, without hearing, unless  
21 the Court in its discretion orders a hearing. The Court will advise the moving  
22 party and any interested person or agency for whom the court has an email  
23 address of the Court’s decision by email.

24 6. These orders as to emergency matters do not apply to petitions for  
25 dependency protective custody warrants, requests for arrest warrants,  
26 requests for search warrants, orders regarding medical treatment that issue in  
27 the ordinary course of business of the juvenile court. Such requests are to be  
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1 made utilizing the procedures in place for the issuance of such orders by the  
2 after-hours duty judge.

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4 In this time of substantial health and safety concerns, and widespread impact to the  
5 operations of the institutions of our community, the Court urges the people and agencies  
6 that make-up the Orange County Juvenile Court community, to cooperate and collaborate  
7 together to continue to serve the public at the highest level we can.

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9 DATED: September 14, 2020

  
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Joanne Motoike  
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court

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