

FILED
ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 11 2020

DAVID H. YAMASAKI, Clerk of the Court

BY: 
R. BRACKEN, DEPUTY

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

GENERAL ORDER NO. 20

**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER MODIFYING JUVENILE JUSTICE
VISITATION IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization and has been declared a national emergency by the President of the United States, and a state emergency by the Governor of California, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. The Orange County Probation Department (OCPD) serves many youth who are currently in custody at Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, or the Youth Leadership Academy. In addition, there is another population of youth who are in out-of-home care and being supervised by OCPD. These youth visit with their parents, siblings, and other relatives during regular visitation hours at their respective facilities, and in some instances, pursuant to a scheduled visitation court order. The interpersonal contact germane to in-person visitation is contrary to the general public health during this unprecedented national crisis.

On March 20, 2020, March 30, 2020, May 1, 2020, May 22, 2020, June 26, 2020, July 17, 2020, and August 14, 2020, the Juvenile Court issued General Order Nos. 3, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 18,

1 respectively (“Temporary Emergency Order Modifying Juvenile Justice Visitation in Light of
2 COVID-19 Pandemic”) for the time periods of March 20, 2020 through March 31, 2020, March 31,
3 2020 through April 30, 2020, May 1, 2020 through May 22, 2020, May 23, 2020 through June 21,
4 2020, June 22, 2020 through July 19, 2020, July 20, 2020 through August 16, 2020, and August 17,
5 2020 through September 13, 2020.

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7 Since the issuance of General Order No. 3, the California State Governor issued Executive Order
8 NO-33-20, directing all residents to “heed the current State public health directive”, and more
9 recently the Acting State Public Health Officer issued a “Statewide Public Health Officer Order” on
10 August 28, 2020. On the same date, the Governor’s Office in conjunction with the California
11 Department of Public Health issued the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”. Subsequently, on
12 September 8, 2020, the County Health Officer for Orange County issued “Orders and Strong
13 Recommendations” for the residents and visitors of Orange County.

14
15 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 202 emphasizes family preservation and family
16 reunification as appropriate goals in the context of juvenile justice cases. Additionally, WIC section
17 727, subdivision (a), permits the court to make “any and all reasonable orders for [a ward's] care,
18 supervision, custody, conduct, maintenance, and support ... subject to further order of the court.” (§
19 727, subd. (a).) All juvenile justice stakeholders recognize that regular visitation is vital to families,
20 and that visitation is the cornerstone of family preservation and rehabilitation of the subject youth. In
21 making this order, the court balances the importance of visitation against the current pressing public
22 health imperatives as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

23
24 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, THE COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- 25
26 1. From September 14, 2020 through October 12, 2020, visitation ordered by juvenile justice
27 court judges for all youth under their jurisdiction who are in out-of-home placement
28

1 (excluding detention facilities) will be made available via teleconferencing, application (such
2 as FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, or WhatsApp), or by telephone where the parent and the
3 caregiver both have necessary equipment to accomplish one of these forms of visitation. In
4 instances where the parent or caregiver lacks necessary equipment, OCPD shall make efforts
5 to ensure telephonic or video contact.
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7 2. When youth are in out-of-home placement and where the assigned probation officer assesses
8 that a caregiver and a parent can safely, willingly, and appropriately coordinate visitation,
9 such as in an open outdoor space where social distancing can be accomplished, the probation
10 officer may authorize such visitation, provided the youth is willing to partake in such
11 visitation. The caregiver, parent, and child shall follow Center for Disease Control
12 recommendations around hygiene practices, including washing hands before and after visits.
13 The caregiver shall assess the parent and child before the visit for presence of symptoms and
14 shall not allow the visit to proceed if either show any symptoms of illness. The caregiver shall
15 immediately notify the probation officer when a visit is canceled due to symptoms.
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17 3. Where a parent's visitation with a youth is held in a therapeutic setting, visits shall occur at
18 the court-ordered frequency, provided OCPD can arrange such visitation pursuant to one of
19 the modalities listed above.
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21 4. No in-person visitation shall occur from September 14, 2020 through October 12, 2020, for
22 youth who are in custody at Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, or the Youth Leadership
23 Academy. Any court ordered visitation at any of the custodial facilities is suspended from
24 September 14, 2020 through October 12, 2020. Additionally, all court ordered furloughs with
25 outside providers are suspended from September 14, 2020 through October 12, 2020. For
26 these youth, OCPD will make every effort to facilitate family visitation as set forth in
27 paragraph 1. Where there is a court order for a certain number of phone calls each week,
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1 OCPD is authorized to increase that number, resources permitting, to make up for the lack of
2 in-person visits. For youth whose court-ordered furloughs and/or provider visitation has been
3 suspended, OCPD will make every effort to facilitate contact with the provider via
4 teleconferencing, application (such as FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, or WhatsApp), or by
5 telephone where the provider has the necessary equipment to accomplish one of these forms
6 of visitation. Nothing in this order is meant to circumvent any policies and procedures put in
7 place by OCPD as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. It is anticipated that as soon as health
8 conditions permit, OCPD will resume regular in-person visits for in custody youth.

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10 5. Sibling visitation shall be suspended during the duration of this order, unless it falls within
11 one of the exceptions outlined in this agreement for parent and child visitation.

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13 This Order is issued over the objection of the Orange County Public Defender's Office on behalf of
14 its clients. The objection is duly noted by the Court.

15 Dated: 9/11/2020



16
17 JOANNE MOTOIKE
18 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court