

**FILED**  
ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

JAN 29 2021

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. 30**

**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, August 14, 2020, September 11, 2020, October 8, 2020, November 6, 2020, December 4, 2020, and

1 December 31, 2020 the Juvenile Court issued General Order Nos. 3, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24,  
2 26 and 28, respectively (“Temporary Emergency Order Modifying Juvenile Justice Visitation in  
3 Light of COVID-19 Pandemic”) for the time periods of March 20, 2020 through March 31, 2020,  
4 March 31, 2020 through April 30, 2020, May 1, 2020 through May 22, 2020, May 23, 2020 through  
5 June 21, 2020, June 22, 2020 through July 19, 2020, July 20, 2020 through August 16, 2020, August  
6 17, 2020 through September 13, 2020, September 14, 2020 through October 12, 2020, October 13,  
7 2020 through November 8, 2020, November 9, 2020 through December 6, 2020, December 7, 2020  
8 through January 3, 2021 and January 4, 2021 through January 31, 2021.

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10 Since the issuance of General Order No. 3, the California State Governor issued Executive Order  
11 NO-33-20, directing all residents to “heed the current State public health directive”, and more  
12 recently the State Public Health Officer issued a “Statewide Public Health Officer Order” on August  
13 28, 2020. On December 22, 2020, the Governor’s Office in conjunction with the California  
14 Department of Public Health updated the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”. Additionally, on  
15 December 17, 2020, the County Health Officer for Orange County issued “Orders and Strong  
16 Recommendations” for the residents and visitors of Orange County.

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

1 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, THE COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:  
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- 3 1. From February 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021, visitation ordered by juvenile justice court  
4 judges for all youth under their jurisdiction who are in out-of-home placement (excluding  
5 detention facilities) will be made available via teleconferencing, application (such as  
6 FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, or WhatsApp), or by telephone where the parent and the  
7 caregiver both have necessary equipment to accomplish one of these forms of visitation. In  
8 instances where the parent or caregiver lacks necessary equipment, OCPD shall make efforts  
9 to ensure telephonic or video contact.  
10
- 11 2. When youth are in out-of-home placement and where the assigned probation officer assesses  
12 that a caregiver and a parent can safely, willingly, and appropriately coordinate visitation,  
13 such as in an open outdoor space where social distancing can be accomplished, the probation  
14 officer may authorize such visitation, provided the youth is willing to partake in such  
15 visitation. The caregiver, parent, and child shall follow Center for Disease Control  
16 recommendations around hygiene practices, including washing hands before and after visits.  
17 The caregiver shall assess the parent and child before the visit for presence of symptoms and  
18 shall not allow the visit to proceed if either show any symptoms of illness. The caregiver shall  
19 immediately notify the probation officer when a visit is canceled due to symptoms.  
20
- 21 3. Where a parent's visitation with a youth is held in a therapeutic setting, visits shall occur at  
22 the court-ordered frequency, provided OCPD can arrange such visitation pursuant to one of  
23 the modalities listed above.  
24
- 25 4. No in-person visitation shall occur from February 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021, for  
26 youth who are in custody at Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, or the Youth Leadership  
27 Academy. Any court ordered visitation at any of the custodial facilities is suspended from  
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1 February 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021. Additionally, all court ordered furloughs with  
2 outside providers are suspended from February 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021. For these  
3 youth, OCPD will make every effort to facilitate family visitation as set forth in paragraph 1.  
4 Where there is a court order for a certain number of phone calls each week, OCPD is  
5 authorized to increase that number, resources permitting, to make up for the lack of in-person  
6 visits. For youth whose court-ordered furloughs and/or provider visitation has been  
7 suspended, OCPD will make every effort to facilitate contact with the provider via  
8 teleconferencing, application (such as FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, or WhatsApp), or by  
9 telephone where the provider has the necessary equipment to accomplish one of these forms  
10 of visitation. Nothing in this order is meant to circumvent any policies and procedures put in  
11 place by OCPD as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. It is anticipated that as soon as health  
12 conditions permit, OCPD will resume regular in-person visits for in custody youth.

- 13  
14 5. Sibling visitation shall be suspended during the duration of this order, unless it falls within  
15 one of the exceptions outlined in this agreement for parent and child visitation.  
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17 This Order is issued over the objection of the Orange County Public Defender's Office on behalf of  
18 its clients. The objection is duly noted by the Court.

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20 Dated: January 29, 2021



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21 JOANNE MOTOIKE  
22 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court  
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