

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

IN RE COVID-19 COURT CLOSURE

General Order No. 29:

Re: Juvenile Court Operations

(Supersedes General Order No. 27)

A. Superseding Order:

1. General Order No. 29 supersedes General Order No. 27.
2. General Order No. 29 is based upon the following changed circumstances:
 - a. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council adopted Emergency Rules 1 through 13 of the California Rules of Court with recent amendments effective on November 13, 2020; and
 - b. On January 28, 2021, 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: January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order.)

B. Order Pursuant to Government Code, section 68115:

1. Pursuant to Government Code section 68115, on January 28, 2021, 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

1 resulting in substantial operational impediments, and the proclamations of
2 states of emergency by federal, state, and local officials, it was determined on
3 fifteen prior occasions that the conditions described in Government Code
4 section 68115 were met with regard to the Superior Court of California, County
5 of Orange (Court)". (January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order.) The Chief
6 Justice further "determined that the conditions described in section 68115(a)
7 continue to exist (Gov. Code, § 68115(c))". (January 28, 2021, Section 68115
8 Order.)

- 9 2. The January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order extends "the time period provided
10 in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken
11 into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a detention
12 hearing to not more than three days". Such extension is "applicable only to
13 minors for whom the statutory deadline would expire from February 1, 2021, to
14 February 26, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code § 68115(a)(11))."
- 15 3. On January 29, 2021, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Orange
16 County issued an "Implementation Order Re: Juvenile Emergency Relief
17 Authorized by Governor Executive Order and by the Judicial Council of
18 California" implementing the January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order.
19 (Hereinafter: Implementation Order.)
- 20 4. The Implementation Order extends the time periods provided in Welfare and
21 Institutions Code section 315, in which a minor taken into custody pending
22 dependency proceedings must be provided a detention hearing "to not more
23 than 3 days" applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline
24 otherwise would expire from February 1, 2021, to February 26, 2021,
25 inclusive. (Gov. Code, § 68115(a)(11).)
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C. Purpose of General Order No. 29:

1. The purpose of this general order is to advise interested parties, counsel and the general public of the conduct of the business of the Orange County Juvenile Court during the period February 1, 2021, through February 26, 2021, pursuant to the January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order and the January 29, 2021 Implementation Order.
2. In the event a further order is issued by the Judicial Council, pursuant to Government Code section 68115, the Orange County Juvenile Court will issue additional general orders.

D. Dependency Proceedings:

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

E. Dependency Hearings:

1. Pursuant to the January 28, 2021, Section 68115 Order and the Implementation Order, the time period provided in Welfare and Institutions Code section 315, in which a detained minor in a dependency proceeding

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 February 1, 2021, to February 26, 2021, inclusive. (Gov. Code, §
4 68115(a)(11).)

- 5 2. Detention hearings concerning detained and/or non-detained children will be
6 scheduled pursuant to Revised Administrative Order No. A-200-5-2020
7 (issued October 2, 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 arrange visitation between the parent[s] and child[ren] from the time
12 between the child[ren]’s removal and the detention hearing and to comply with
13 all orders of the Court made at the detention hearing, including, and in
14 particular as to, placement of a detained child.
- 15 5. The Court may conduct in-progress and contested hearings via remote
16 technology consistent with Rules of Court, Rule 5.531 and Emergency Rules
17 of Court, Rule 3. (Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 6(c)(1).)
- 18 6. The child[ren] and parents or custodial caregiver, and appointed or retained
19 counsel, only, will be given access to the courthouse and designated
20 courtroom for the purposes of conducting dependency hearings.
- 21 7. The appearance of the child[ren], parents or custodial caregiver at the
22 dependency hearing may be waived in order to alleviate the overall number of
23 persons within the confines of the courthouse.

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F. Juvenile Justice Proceedings:

1. Pending further order of the Court, the appearance of the parties to juvenile justice proceedings may be waived, in order to alleviate the overall number of persons within the confines of the courthouse.
2. Additionally, pursuant to Emergency Rules of Court, Rule 3(a)(1), the "Court[] may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely." However, the assigned juvenile court judge may require the appearance of any party or person, notwithstanding this order.

G. Juvenile Justice Hearings:

1. As to any detained minor, the District Attorney is ordered to file, notice and serve a petition for the conduct of a timely detention hearing.
2. The Orange County Probation Department, is ordered to make reasonable efforts to comply with all orders of the Court made at a youth's detention hearing, including any orders as to placement of a detained child.
3. The appearance of the parents or custodial caregiver of the minor in custody at a hearing may be waived, in order to alleviate the overall number of persons within the confines of the courthouse.
4. The youth, parents or custodial caregiver, and appointed or retained counsel, as well as the alleged victim(s), will be given access to the courthouse and designated courtroom for the youth's hearing. Members of the public pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 676 and Administrative Order A-100-2-2013, will be given access to the courthouse and designated courtroom for juvenile justice hearings concerning petitions alleging violations identified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 676, subdivision (a).

- 1 5. 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. 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.

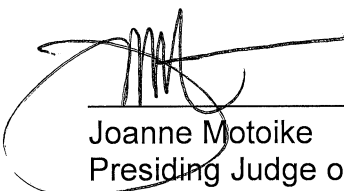
24 6. These orders as to emergency matters do not apply to petitions for
25 dependency protective custody warrants, requests for arrest warrants,
26 requests for search warrants, orders regarding medical treatment that issue in
27 the ordinary course of business of the juvenile court. Such requests are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

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

DATED: January 29, 2021



Joanne Motoike
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court