

MAY 01 2020

By M. Fields
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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO
DEPARTMENT EIGHT**

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In Re: Civil Matters

Case No.: MISC 002723

**AMENDED STANDING ORDER
REGARDING CIVIL MATTERS
DURING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
(EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020)**

THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. On February 27, 2020, the County of Solano proclaimed a local emergency to exist due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8630 et seq. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19 pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8550 et seq. On March 13, 2020, President Trump proclaimed a national state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19.

2. On March 18, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer issued an order effective through April 7, 2020, directing all individuals living in Solano County to shelter at their place of residence except to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities on behalf of businesses and governmental agencies. The order further directed businesses and governmental agencies to cease non-essential activities at places within Solano

1 County and to cease non-essential gatherings. That order has been extended twice and is now
2 effective through May 17, 2020.

3 3. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all
4 individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or their place of residence except as
5 needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.
6 Executive Order N-33-20 is in effect until further notice.

7 4. On March 17, 30 and April 29, 2020, acting as the Chair of the Judicial Council, Chief
8 Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye granted the application for emergency orders sought by the
9 Solano County Superior Court pursuant to Government Code, § 68115. The current order
10 authorizes emergency operations through May 28, 2020. Pursuant to Government Code,
11 §68115(a)(4), due to the existence of an emergency condition that substantially interferes with
12 the public's ability to file papers in court, the days are deemed "holidays" for the purpose of
13 computing time for filing papers with the court under sections 12 and 12a of the Code of Civil
14 Procedure.
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16 5. On March 17, April 3 and 29, 2020, Solano County Superior Court Presiding Judge
17 Donna Stashyn issued a General Order re: Implementation of Emergency Relief authorizing
18 implementation of the March 17, 2020 Emergency Order by individual judicial officers.

19 6. On March 23 and 30 and April 29, 2020, the Chief Justice issued statewide emergency
20 orders. Provisions of these orders include continuance of jury trials and the delegation of
21 authority to trial courts to establish rules necessary to address the impact of the COVID-19
22 pandemic to take effect immediately. In response to the pandemic, the Judicial Council issued
23 Emergency Rules 1-13 and Circulating Orders CO-20-06 and CO-20-07.
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1 7. On March 19, 2020, the Solano County Superior Court announced the reduction of
2 operations to implement the order of the State Health Officer and Solano County Health Officer
3 and to focus on public safety.

4 **BASED UPON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, IT IS ORDERED:**

5 1. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic
6 has necessitated the reduction in court operations. While the court has limited operations, court
7 operations conducted in physical courtrooms are restricted to processing and hearing essential
8 matters that are required to comply with an individual's constitutional rights, necessitate
9 emergency relief and/or to protect the health and safety of the public. The orders to shelter in
10 place substantially interfere with the ability of civil litigants to access legal resources, seek
11 legal assistance and/or file necessary legal documents.

12 2. For matters involving small claims, see MISC 002719 Amended Standing Order
13 Postponing Small Claims Hearings and Trial Setting. For matters involving unlawful
14 detainers, see MISC 002718 Amended Standing Order Regarding Unlawful Detainer Trials and
15 Processing of Defaults and Writs of Possession During Emergency Operations.

16 3. With the exception of ex parte emergency matters, temporary restraining orders,
17 preliminary injunctions, bench warrant returns, and matters that required posting or publication
18 via newspaper, any civil matter scheduled between May 1 and May 28, 2020, will be heard in a
19 remote court proceeding via Zoom, telephone conference call or CourtCall and will not be
20 heard in a physical courtroom unless otherwise expressly ordered by the assigned judge or Civil
21 Supervising Judge. Ex parte emergency matters, temporary restraining orders, preliminary
22 injunctions, bench warrant returns and matters that required posting or publication via
23 newspaper will continue to be heard in the physical courtroom assigned to the civil departments
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1 unless case-specific arrangements are made with the assigned department. Parties and
2 interested persons are encouraged to make arrangements to appear via CourtCall, by telephone
3 conference call or via Zoom if possible. Due to court closures, parties or interested persons
4 appearing in person for non-remote proceedings are advised to consult the electronic bulletin
5 boards and any posted notices for courtroom assignments.

6 4. For information on how remote court is administered and requirements of
7 participants, please refer to the Standing Order regarding Remote Proceedings for additional
8 information on remote proceedings.

9 5. All civil jury trials are postponed 90 days.

10 6. Departments will hear all scheduled case management proceedings and law and
11 motion via remote court. All court trials which exceed a 2 hour estimate will be continued, but
12 parties shall appear at the calendared date and time to reset the proceedings. Each department
13 may determine whether a court trial of less than 2 hours may proceed via remote court on a
14 case-by-case basis and in the discretion of the assigned judicial officer.

15 7. Defaults in civil matters will not be processed until 10 court days after any period in
16 which the State Health Officer has ordered the community to shelter in place.

17 8. Throughout the period of emergency operations, the Solano County Superior Court
18 has remained open to receive filings by drop box, regular mail or delivery. Unless good cause
19 exists, it is expected that parties are able to file necessary pleadings to be prepared for
20 appearances in remote court.
21

22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

23 Dated: April 29, 2020



24 **WENDY G. GETTY**
25 **Supervising Civil Judge**
Solano County Superior Court