

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Media Relations

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NEWS RELEASE: COVID-19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 15, 2020**

PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE EXTENDS ORDER CLOSING COURTROOMS, DELAYING TRIALS AND NON-ESSENTIAL MATTERS FOR 30 DAYS

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile signed an extension of his March 17 Order pursuant to the emergency powers granted to him by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye under Government Code 68115. Under the April 14 Order, all courtrooms will remain closed for judicial business through May 12, except time-sensitive, essential functions.

"This extension is necessary to continue social distancing in our courthouses as we balance public health and safety while maintaining access to justice for time-sensitive, essential matters," Presiding Judge Brazile said.

All Civil jury and non-jury trials scheduled between April 17 and May 12, 2020, will be continued to a date after June 22, 2020. Parties will be notified of the continued trial date. All pretrial dates for trials scheduled during this time period also are continued consistent with the new trial date. The Order is attached.

Presiding Judge Brazile's April 14 order adds three new essential duties to the list:

- Juvenile Petitions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 388 (e) [per Emergency rule No. 6];

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COVID-19_GENERAL ORDER

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- Writ proceedings under WIC sections 4800-4801 seeking release by persons judicially committed to a state hospital, development center, or other facility; and
- Expedited Petitions to Approve Compromise of Disputed Claim or Pending Action or Disposition of Proceeds of Judgment for Minor or Person with a Disability pursuant to California Rule of Court 7.950.5, if no hearing is required.

To continue social distancing at courthouses during essential proceedings, Presiding Judge Brazile's Order also indicates that Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Sherri R. Carter may provide telephonic and electronic assistance, to the greatest extent possible.

The Court is launching a comprehensive video arraignment program in 29 courtrooms in 15 courthouses in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and County law enforcement agencies. Remote appearance technology is operative in all essential Dependency hearings and in Delinquency hearings to the extent permitted by law.

For the latest updates on Coronavirus/COVID-19-related impacts to Court operations, please consult the Court's COVID-19 News Center located at the top of our homepage (www.lacourt.org), and follow us on Twitter (@[LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)).

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FILED
 Superior Court of California
 County of Los Angeles

APR 14 2020

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy
 Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
 PRESIDING JUDGE RE COVID-19
 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of California have recognized that the world, country, and state face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

In response to the spread of COVID-19, Governor Gavin Newsom on March 4, 2020, declared a state of emergency in California, which was followed on March 13, 2020, by President Donald J. Trump declaring a national emergency. Beginning on March 16, 2020, California counties, including Los Angeles, began issuing shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, requiring all Californians to stay home, subject to certain limited exemptions. Courts are included in this exemption.

Public Health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public gatherings and spaces. The continuous operation of our courts is essential for our constitutional form of government, for providing due process and protecting the public. However, courts are clearly places with high risks during this pandemic because they require gatherings of judicial officers, court staff,

1 litigants, attorneys, witnesses, defendants, law enforcement, and juries—well in excess of the numbers
2 allowed for gathering under current executive and health orders.

3
4 In response, on March 20, 2020, the Chief Justice of California, the Honorable Tani Cantil-
5 Sakauye, issued an advisory recommending steps superior courts could take to mitigate the effect of
6 reduced staffing and court closures and to protect the health of judges, court staff, and court users. On
7 March 23, 2020, the Chief Justice also issued an order requiring superior courts to suspend jury trials
8 for 60 days, unless they were able to conduct such a trial at an earlier date, upon a finding of good
9 cause shown or through the use of remote technology. That order also extended holding last day trials
10 in criminal and civil proceedings; and authorized courts to adopt any proposed local rules or rule
11 amendment intended to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to take effect immediately,
12 without advance circulation for public comment.

13
14 On March 27, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-38-20, which among other
15 things, suspends Government Code section 68115 and any other provision of law to the extent that
16 those laws impose or imply a limitation on the Chief Justice's authority to authorize, via emergency
17 order or statewide rule, any court to take any action that is necessary to maintain the safe and orderly
18 operation of the courts. On March 28, 2020, the Judicial Council met in an emergency session and
19 unanimously authorized and supported the Chief Justice issuing statewide emergency orders to extend
20 statutory deadlines for preliminary hearings, arraignments, and last day trials in both criminal and civil
21 proceedings.

22
23 On March 30, 2020, the Chief Justice issued an order that, inter alia, (a) extended the time
24 period provided in section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination and
25 the defendant's right to release from 10 court days to not more than 30 court days; (b) extended the
26 time period provided in section 825 of the Penal Code within which a defendant charged with a felony
27 offense must be taken before a magistrate from 48 hours to not more than seven days; (c) extended the
28 time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by no more

1 than 60 days from the last date on which the statutory deadline otherwise would have expired; and (d)
2 extended the time periods provided in sections 583.310 and 583.320 of the Code of Civil Procedure to
3 bring an action to trial by no more than 60 days from the last date on which the statutory deadline
4 otherwise would have expired. These time extensions were in addition to any relief provided pursuant
5 to a court-specific emergency order issued under a subdivision of Government Code section 68115
6 related to another time extension or form of relief.

7
8 On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council issued additional Emergency Rules 1 through 11. These
9 Rules pertain to a number of different subject matters and were effective immediately.

10
11 In addition, upon the renewed request of Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile, the Chief Justice
12 determined that the conditions described in section 68115(a) continue to exist, and authorized the
13 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles to undertake a number of actions.

14
15 In light of these actions and orders, and as supplemented by the specific authority granted to
16 the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, by the Chief Justice pursuant to the
17 provisions of 68115 of the Government Code,

18
19 This court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 20
21 1. **From April 17, 2020 until May 12, 2020**, inclusive, all courtrooms will remain closed
22 for judicial business, except for the following time-sensitive, essential functions:
23 a. Civil Temporary Restraining Orders
24 b. Family Temporary Restraining Orders
25 c. Civil Ex Parte Proceedings¹

26
27 ¹ From April 17, 2020 until May 12, 2020, all parties may appear telephonically in Civil ex parte matters. Opposition
28 papers for any electronically-filed ex parte application must be electronically filed by 8:00 p.m. the day before the hearing
on the ex parte application, unless the party opposing the ex parte application is a self-represented litigant or otherwise
exempt from mandatory electronic filing pursuant to the operative General Order re Mandatory Electronic Filing in Civil.

- 1 d. Family Ex Parte Proceedings
- 2 e. Hague Convention (International Kidnapping)
- 3 f. Probate Ex Parte Hearings
- 4 g. Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Conservatorship
- 5 h. Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Guardianship
- 6 i. Riese Hearings
- 7 j. Search Warrants
- 8 k. Arraignments
- 9 l. Criminal Preliminary Hearings
- 10 m. Criminal Ex Parte Hearings
- 11 n. Bail Bond and Cash Bail Processings
- 12 o. Bail Review
- 13 p. Criminal Mental Competency Hearings
- 14 q. Criminal Sentencing Proceedings
- 15 r. Criminal Post-Sentencing Proceedings
- 16 s. Grand Jury Indictments
- 17 t. Juvenile Ex Parte Orders
- 18 u. Emergency Orders Relating to the Health and Safety of a Child
- 19 v. Juvenile Restraining Orders
- 20 w. Juvenile Delinquency Detention Hearings and related case processing
- 21 x. Juvenile Dependency Detention Hearings and related case processing
- 22 y. Petitions for Writ Seeking Emergency Relief in Misdemeanor, Limited Civil and
- 23 Infractions
- 24 z. Emergency Writs Challenging COVID-19 Emergency Measures
- 25 aa. Writs of Habeas Corpus Challenging Medical Quarantines
- 26 bb. Emergency Protective Orders
- 27 cc. Proceedings under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (“LPS”) Act
- 28 dd. Judicial Commitments for Dangerous Persons based on Mental Health Conditions

- 1 ee. Parole and Post-Release Community Supervision Revocation Hearings
2 ff. Juvenile Delinquency Adjudications and Dispositions, and related case processing
3 gg. Juvenile Petitions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 388e (per
4 Emergency Rule No. 6)
5 hh. Expedited Petitions to Approve Compromise of Disputed Claim or Pending Action
6 or Disposition of Proceeds of Judgment for Minor or Person with a Disability
7 Pursuant to California Rule of Court 7.950.5, if no hearing is required
8 ii. Writ proceedings under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 4800-4801 seeking
9 release by persons judicially committed to a state hospital, development center, or
10 other facility
11

- 12 2. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL OTHER MATTERS WILL BE**
13 **CONTINUED BY THE COURT.** The parties shall receive further notice stating
14 the specific time and date of the continuance in their cases.
15
16 3. The court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and
17 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
18 proceedings must be released from custody to not more than **seven (7) days**,
19 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
20 from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.
21
22 4. The court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and
23 Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency
24 proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than **seven (7) days**,
25 applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire
26 from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.
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28

- 1 5. The court extends the time periods provided in sections 632 and 637 of the Welfare
2 and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending wardship
3 proceedings and charged with a felony offense must be given a detention hearing or
4 rehearing to not more than **seven (7) days**, applicable only to minors for whom the
5 statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,
6 inclusive.
- 7
- 8 6. The court extends the time period provided in section 334 of the Welfare and
9 Institutions Code within which a hearing on a juvenile dependency petition must be
10 held by not more than **fifteen (15) days**, applicable only to minors for whom the
11 statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,
12 inclusive.
- 13
- 14 7. The Court extends the time period provided in section 657 of the Welfare and
15 Institutions Code within which a hearing on a wardship petition for a minor charged
16 with a felony offense must be held by not more than **fifteen (15) days**, applicable
17 only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from **April**
18 **17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive.
- 19
- 20 8. Further, the court declares that from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive, be
21 deemed a holiday/holidays for purposes of computing the time under Code of Civil
22 Procedure section 116.330(a) (requires a small claims matter to be scheduled for
23 hearing no earlier than 20 days but not more than 70 days from the date of the order
24 directing the parties to appear at the hearing).
- 25
- 26 9. All civil jury or non-jury trials, other than in unlawful detainer cases, set for trial
27 from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, will be continued until a date after June 22,
28 2020. The parties shall be notified of the continued trial date by the Court. All pre-

1 trial dates for trials that are continued pursuant to this paragraph are also continued
2 consistent with the new trial date.

3
4 10. In unlawful detainer cases, Emergency Rule 1(d) establishes that if the defendant
5 has appeared in the action, the court may not set a trial date earlier than 60 days
6 after a request for trial is made, unless the court finds that an earlier trial date is
7 necessary to protect public health and safety. Under that same rule, any trial set in
8 an unlawful detainer proceeding as of April 6, 2020 must be continued at least 60
9 days from the initial date of trial.

10
11 11. All traffic and infraction trials set for trial from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**,
12 inclusive, are continued. The parties shall receive notice of the date on which the
13 continued trial shall be set.

14
15 12. In all criminal cases, the court imposes a 90-day continuance of all status reports
16 and progress reports, applicable only to defendants for whom a status report or
17 progress report was due from **April 17, 2020 to May 12, 2020**, inclusive. The
18 court shall provide notice of when the new proceeding will be held.

19
20 13. The continuance of any and all misdemeanor post-arraignment proceedings, in
21 which the defendant is out of custody, applicable only to defendants for whom
22 misdemeanor proceedings would otherwise be set from **April 17, 2020 to May 12,**
23 **2020**, inclusive.

24
25 14. Access to all Los Angeles County courthouses remains restricted at all times to
26 judges, commissioners, court staff, co-lessees, Judicial Council staff and vendors,
27 and authorized persons, which includes but is not limited to news reporters and
28 news media representatives.

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- 15. Access to all essential court proceedings, including, but not limited to, arraignments, preliminary hearings, restraining orders or ex parte matters, remains limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses or authorized persons, which includes, but is not limited to news reporters and news media representatives.

- 16. The Executive Officer/Clerk of Court may provide telephonic and electronic assistance in these essential court proceedings to the greatest extent possible.

- 17. In furtherance of Executive Order N-33-20, paragraph 4, subpart (b), the Court orders all parties who use e-filing to accept electronic service, except in those circumstances when personal service is required by law or where any of the parties are self-represented.

**THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
UNTIL MAY 12, 2020 AND MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

DATED: April 14, 2020



Kevin C. Brazile

 KEVIN C. BRAZILE
 Presiding Judge