



News Release

Superior Court of California, County of Kern

July 10, 2020

Kristin Davis
Public Affairs Officer
(661) 868-5399

PRESIDING JUDGE JUDITH K. DULCICH ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST COVID-19

The Court acknowledges the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise throughout Kern County. The Court has a duty to employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Court has attempted to provide essential services, crowds in the courthouses are growing and causing concern for safety of the public, litigants, attorneys, and employees. In an effort to provide Court services with applicable social distancing requirements in place, the Court has taken the following actions:

- Criminal Cases – The Court has implemented an emergency order from Chief Justice of California that extends the time period for holding a speedy trial. The last day of any criminal case’s time limit to bring the case to trial, which would expire between July 8, 2020 and September 8, 2020, has been extended by 30 days.
- Civil Cases – In the Metropolitan Division, the Court has suspended all jury trials and bench trials longer than 2 days, for a period of 90 days.
- Family Law – In the Metropolitan Division, beginning July 20, 2020, for persons represented by an attorney (on either side), the case will be heard at 8:30 a.m. For persons representing themselves (both sides), cases will be heard at 1:30 p.m. Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) matters will be heard at 8 a.m.

###