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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CA, COUNTY OF KERN

OCT - 3 2019

TERRY McNALLY, CLERK
BY TS DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN

**IN RE: COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF
CIVIL PROCEDURE § 2025.550 AND
REJECTION OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA STIPULATION FOR
SUBMISSION OF UNSEALED
ORIGINAL DEPOSITION
TRANSCRIPTS**

MISCELLANEOUS NO.: STO-19-0003

By Order of the Presiding Judge:

There has been a past practice of allowing attorneys to submit unsealed original depositions transcripts to the Court under what is known as the Southern California Stipulation (SoCal Stip), in which the court reporter is relieved of his/her duty under Code of Civil Procedure § 2025.550 and the original transcript is sent directly to the witness or the witness' attorney for reading and signature. When deposition transcripts are handled properly per Code Civ. Proc. § 2025.550, the physical original transcript is retained by the court reporter throughout the entire production process, safeguarding its integrity until the reading and signature period

1 has elapsed for the deponent. At the appropriate time, the court reporter must
2 produce an original sealed transcript with attached corrections, if any, and deliver it to
3 the noticing attorney. The transcript is then preserved for filing with the court in its
4 sealed form.

5 With all the advancements in technology since the SoCal Stip's initial
6 development, including electronic transfer and signature capabilities, as well as
7 document and communication security, the rationale for the SoCal Stip no longer
8 exists. Accordingly, the Court will no longer allow unsealed original transcripts to be
9 submitted to the Court under the SoCal Stip. Rather the Court will require attorneys to
10 comply with Code Civ. Proc. § 2025.550, which will safeguard the integrity of the
11 original transcript and exhibits and prohibit the potential opportunity for a party to
12 tamper with the physical original transcript or exhibits when court reporters are
13 relieved of their duties.

14 This order shall be effective, and Code Civ. Pro. § 2025.550 shall apply, to all
15 depositions noticed on or after November 1, 2019.

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17 **IT IS ORDERED.**

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19 Dated: October 3, 2019.

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22 _____
23 Judith K. Dulcich, Presiding Judge
24 Kern County Superior Court
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