

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
POLICY REGARDING NORMAL AVAILABILITY AND UNAVAILABILITY OF OFFICIAL
COURT REPORTERS – CRC 2.956(b)(1)**

Effective September 14, 2020

For all Kern County Court locations, Court reporters are provided for Felony Criminal, Juvenile, Limited Family Law Matters Related to Abandonment, Adoption, Contempt, and Domestic Violence Proceedings, and Limited Probate Matters. Parties, however, may be required to pay for reporting services pursuant to Government Code § 69953. There is also a reporter assigned to the monthly Superior Court-Appeals Court session held the first Friday of every month in the Bakersfield Metropolitan Division of the Court. Court reporters are **not** provided for Unlimited and Limited Civil, Small Claims, Misdemeanor, Traffic Court, and other cases in which a court provided reporter is not available due to budget constraints. For more information on court provided reporter services, see: <http://www.kern.courts.ca.gov/>

METROPOLITAN DIVISION (Assignments and Availability Subject to Change)				REGIONAL COURTS (Assignments and Availability Subject to Change)		
DEPT	1415 METRO	DIV	1215 JUSTICE BLDG	DIV	BRANCH	
1	Court Reporter Assigned	A	Court Reporter Assigned Family Support	NORTH	DELANO/McFARLAND	
2	Court Reporter Assigned for Criminal Matters Only	B	No Court Reporter Assigned	A	Court Reporter Assigned	
3	Court Reporter Assigned	C	No Court Reporter Assigned	B	Court Reporter Assigned	
4	Court Reporter Assigned	D	No Court Reporter Assigned	C	Court Reporter Assigned	
5	Court Reporter Assigned	E	No Court Reporter Assigned		SHAFTER / WASCO	
6	Court Reporter Assigned	F	No Court Reporter Assigned	A	Court Reporter Assigned	
7	Court Reporter Assigned	G	Electronic Recording	B	Court Reporter Assigned	
8	Court Reporter Assigned	H	Electronic Recording	SOUTH	ARVIN/LAMONT	
9	Court Reporter Assigned	J	Electronic Recording	A	Court Reporter Assigned	
10	No Court Reporter Assigned	K	Electronic Recording	B	Court Reporter Assigned As Needed	
11	No Court Reporter Assigned	P	No Court Reporter Assigned		TAFT/MARICOPA	
12	Electronic Recording	Court Reporter Assigned for all DV, Contempt, Adoptions and Abandonments.		A	No Court Reporter Assigned	
13	No Court Reporter Assigned				EAST	MOJAVE
14	Court Reporter Assigned				A	Court Reporter Assigned
15	Court Reporter Assigned				B	Court Reporter Assigned
16	Court Reporter Assigned					
17	No Court Reporter Assigned					
18	Court Reporter Assigned for Criminal Matters Only				C	No Court Reporter Assigned
DEPT	ARROW ST. (TRAFFIC)	DEPT	JUVENILE JUSTICE	A	Court Reporter Assigned	
T1	Electronic Recording	J1	No Court Reporter Assigned	B	Court Reporter Assigned	
T2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Recording • Court Reporter assigned for Criminal Trials 	J2	Court Reporter Assigned			
		J3	Court Reporter Assigned			
		J4	Court Reporter Assigned			

For any matter in which the Court does not provide a Court reporter and electronic recording is not authorized, a party may arrange for a Certified Shorthand Reporter to serve as an official pro tempore reporter in accordance with the Kern County Superior Court *Official Reporter Pro Tempore Policy* [CtSup-2020-1A]. The party will be responsible for payment of a privately retained court reporter pro tempore. The court requires that each party file a statement ten (10) days before the

trial date indicating whether the party requests the presence of an official court reporter. If a party requests the presence of an official court reporter and it appears that none will be available, the clerk will notify the party of that fact as soon as possible before the trial. If the services of official court reporters are normally available, the clerk will notify the parties to a civil trial as soon as possible if it appears that those services will not be available.

Parties shall be required to pay for Court provided Court reporters in accordance with Government Code § 69953. The cost for a court provided court reporter shall be \$300 per half day and \$600 per full day in accordance with Government Code § 68086(a)(1)(B) and the court's fee schedule. A \$30 fee will be charged for each proceeding that is one hour or less in duration, pursuant to Government Code § 68086(a)(1).

In compliance with *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 594, an exception applies for fee waiver litigants, for whom an official court reporter will be made available, upon request, in unlimited jurisdiction civil, family law or probate proceedings. Such request for a reporter must be made in writing in a separate document filed with the Court at least ten (10) days before the date of the trial or hearing. Optional local form CIV-0025 may be used for this purpose. The Court presiding over a particular trial or hearing, for good cause, may shorten or waive the ten (10) day requirement. If a fee waiver litigant requested the presence of an official court reporter and it appears that none can be made available, the proceeding will be continued until such time as an official court reporter can be made available. The Court will not be responsible for any court reporter pro tempore's fees, if that reporter pro tempore was privately retained by a fee waiver litigant.

The Court is not obligated to provide court reporter transcripts to fee waiver litigants free of charge. A fee waiver litigant may be able to obtain assistance through the Transcript Reimbursement Fund. (See Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 8030.1-8030.9; see also *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 594, 623-624). That fund compensates for transcript preparation fees. The Transcript Reimbursement Fund Application is available at the [Court Reporter Board's website](#), under the heading Transcript Reimbursement Fund (TRF). There are limited funds available for fee waivers under the program.

Pursuant to Government Code § 68630(c) et seq. the Court may recover previously waived fees if a litigant has obtained a judgment or substantial settlement. In addition, if the Court provides an official court reporter in cases in which a fee waiver recipient requests such a reporter, the Court is permitted to impose a pro rata share of the costs of such an official reporter on the parties in those cases who can afford to pay official court reporter fees, just as in other cases in which the Court provides an official court reporter. (See Government Code § 68086, subd. (a)(2)); *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 594, 619, FN 18).

Beginning May 14, 2018, all court reporters of the Kern County Superior Court, acting either in an official reporter or pro tempore capacity, are required to follow the Kern County transcript format for all transcripts submitted to the Court and parties. The transcript layout as well as formatting information and instruction videos are accessible on the Court's G-drive for official reporters regularly employed by the Court. The relevant information will be provided to outside reporters pro tempore by the court reporter's office. In addition, all court reporters are required to file all transcripts electronically in each case for which a transcript is prepared. Payment of the e-file provider fees shall be the sole responsibility of each court reporter.