News Release

Superior Court of California, County of Kern

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**NOTICE OF CLARIFICATION OF CIVIL FEE SCHEDULE – "FIRST PAPER"
EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2022**

California law and the Court's Civil Fee Schedule require payment of a fee for an "Answer or other first paper" filed by a party other than a plaintiff. See Fee Schedule available on the Court's website. The Court has previously permitted the filing of certain papers by parties other than plaintiffs without requiring payment of the statutory fee. To ensure the consistent application of the statutory fee, effective March 7, 2022, the Court will require the payment of the statutory fee with the filing of all "first papers" filed by a party other than a plaintiff in limited and unlimited civil cases, unless there is a statutory exemption for the filing. Examples of such "first papers" include, but are not limited to, case management conference statements, stipulations, certificates of inability to respond, requests, applications, and declarations. [Statutory references: Gov. Code sections 70611, 70612, 70602.5, 70602.6, 70613(a), and 70614(a).]

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