



News Release

Superior Court of California, County of Kern

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AUDIO STREAMING AIMS TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Kern County Superior Court recognizes the important role that public access to criminal and civil proceedings plays in a democratic society. At the same time, the Court must take reasonable steps to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Court facilities. In some of our more congested facilities, these reasonable steps may include excluding the public from physically attending court proceedings; in other facilities, these reasonable steps may include limiting the number of courtroom observers consistent with physical distancing and other health and safety standards. However, to ensure that all members of the public may continue to monitor or observe court proceedings, regardless of the court facility in which they occur, the Court now provides live audio streaming of all non-confidential criminal and civil proceedings throughout the County. A new Standing Order re: *Access to Court Proceedings During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Availability of Audio Live Streaming* will be effective October 1, 2020.

The Court encourages members of the public and other courtroom observers to avoid physically attending court and instead to access the proceedings via audio live-stream. Live audio streaming of all non-confidential proceedings can be accessed through the Court's [website](#). Click "Court Hearing Audio Streaming" on the Homepage and select the audio live-stream you desire.

Users of the Court's audio streaming service are reminded of the general prohibition against the photographing, recording, and rebroadcasting of court proceedings. See [California Rule of Court 1.150](#) and this Court's Standing Order [No. 19-0005](#). Any recording of a court proceeding is absolutely prohibited without a court order. Violation of this order of the Court is punishable as contempt pursuant to [Code of Civil Procedure § 1209](#).

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