



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN

POLICY REGARDING NORMAL AVAILABILITY AND UNAVAILABILITY OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS

Local Rules suspended, and availability of court reporters limited. Effective June 10, 2013, existing published local rules, including Local Rule 1.6, regarding normal availability of court reporters are suspended pursuant to an order of the Presiding Judge; and in lieu thereof, the following will apply:

Effective June 10, 2013, official court reporters will normally be available only in felony criminal cases and juvenile matters during regular court hours. Official court reporters will normally be available in family law proceedings only for Domestic Violence Prevention Act restraining orders, contempt, and abandonment proceedings.

Effective June 10, 2013, official court reporters will not normally be available in family law matters, except in the hearings set forth in the preceding paragraph; probate; and unlimited civil matters. In these proceedings a party may arrange for a Certified Shorthand Reporter to serve as an official pro tempore reporter. Payment for a pro tem reporter is the parties' responsibility in accordance with Government Code § 69953.

The Kern County Superior Court provides verbatim electronic recording services in infraction, misdemeanor, limited civil including unlawful detainers, small claims, and parking citation appeal proceedings. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.952.)

Parties may privately arrange for the appointment of a court-approved official court reporter pro tempore without a stipulation, beginning June 10, 2013 for civil, probate matters and family matters. A list of court-approved certified shorthand reporters, including names and contact information, who can be privately arranged and appointed as an official court reporter pro tempore without stipulation of the parties, will be posted on the court's website. The court will also post on its website the policies for court reporters to be approved for the list, and for arranging for the appointment of a reporter.

Parties may privately arrange for the appointment of a reporter not on the court-approved list, by stipulation and order, effective June 10, 2013 for civil, probate matters, and family law matters. Parties may, by stipulation, arrange for the appointment of a certified shorthand reporter who is not on the court-approved list to serve in a proceeding as an official court reporter pro tempore where an official court reporter is not normally available. The court will also post its policy for arranging for a reporter who is not on the court-approved list, and necessary forms, on its website.

Parties, including those with fee waivers, will be responsible for all fees and costs related to court reporter services arranged under the foregoing provisions.

The reporting notes of all certified shorthand reporters are the official records of the court and shall be kept by the reporter taking the notes in a place designated by the court, or, upon order of the court, delivered to the clerk of the court (Gov. Code § 69955(a)). The court's policy for providing the court with electronic notes will be posted on the court's website.

All forms, policies, and additional information will be available on the court's website at www.kern.courts.ca.gov.