



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KERN

March 6, 2026

## JUDGES

Kenneth C. Twisselman II  
John D. Oglesby  
John R. Brownlee  
Judith K. Dulcich  
Raymonda Burnham Marquez  
J. Eric Bradshaw  
Charles R. Brehmer  
Bryan K. Stainfield  
Susan M. Gill  
Jose R. Benavides  
John W. Lua  
Thomas S. Clark  
Brian M. McNamara  
David R. Zulfa  
Marcos R. Camacho  
David Wolf  
Kenneth R. Green Jr.  
Tiffany Organ-Bowles  
Gloria J. Cannon  
Gregory A. Pulskamp  
Chad A. Louie  
Jason W. Webster  
Bernard C. Barmann, Jr.  
Wendy Avila  
Lisa Pacione  
Andrew B. Kendall  
Christie Canales Norris  
Michael A. Caves  
T. Mark Smith  
Dawn Bittleston  
Stephanie R. Childers  
Marcus Cuper  
Tanya R. Richard  
Bradley King  
Donald B. Griffith  
Keenan Perkins  
Cole McKnight  
William J. Schlaerth  
Sally Ackerknecht

## COURT COMMISSIONERS

Gina M. Cervantes  
Murray Robertson  
Brett V. Myers  
Kevin Moran  
James Green  
Samantha K. G. Allen  
Thurman Owen  
Cynthia Espinosa

## COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLERK OF THE COURT

Tara Leal

Superior Court of California  
County of Kern  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 610-6000

The proposed adoption and/or amendments to the Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Local Rules of Court, and Local Forms, for July 1, 2026, have been posted for comment at [www.kern.courts.ca.gov](http://www.kern.courts.ca.gov). A hard copy of the proposal is available on request.

1. Chapter I. General Rules
2. Chapter III. Civil Rules and Civil Case Management
3. Chapter V. Criminal Rules
4. Chapter VI. Family Law Rules
5. Chapter VIII. Probate Matters

Public comments can be sent by email to [WMadmin@kern.courts.ca.gov](mailto:WMadmin@kern.courts.ca.gov) or mail to the following address:

Tara Leal  
Court Executive Officer  
Superior Court of California, County of Kern  
1415 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Respectfully,

Tara Leal  
Court Executive Officer  
Superior Court of California, County of Kern

Enclosure: Proposed Adoption and/or Amendments to Local Rules of Court

## Number 1: Proposed Amendments From Public Defender's Office

### Chapter V. Criminal Rules

#### Rule 5.1.3 Misdemeanor Arraignments (Effective 1/1/26; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) – (b) \*\*\*

*(c) Defendants who are present in court for misdemeanor arraignments shall be advised that the Public Defender is available to them for immediate consultation, free of charge, before they enter a plea in their case. The Public Defender may offer individual consultations in cases in which they have not yet been appointed, but in which they reasonably anticipate being appointed.*

~~(e)~~ *(d)* Probation Officers appearing in misdemeanor arraignment calendars are not to determine, convey, and/or negotiate plea offers or indicate sentences to defendants charged with misdemeanors. Probation Officers may assist defendants with terms and conditions of probation.

## Number 2: Proposed Revision to Existing Rule – Under General Rules

### Chapter I. General Rules

#### Rule 1.18 ~~Photographing, Recording and Broadcasting of Courtroom Proceedings~~ *in Court* (Effective 1/1/23; *rev. 7/1/25; rev. 7/1/26*)

~~Photographing, recording, and broadcasting of courtroom proceedings must be conducted solely pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150 and this rule. This rule applies to the actions of the media, parties, lawyers, court employees, court security and the general public in taking, broadcasting, use and/or publication of sound and visual recordings of court proceedings (including the movement of all individuals and parties to and from such proceedings), both still and moving, whether by analog, digital, film magnetic tape or by any other means of recording and/or storage.~~

~~Consistent with case law and California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, no photographs, video recordings or audio recordings of courtroom proceedings may be taken anywhere in any courthouse facility, nor during any remote participation in courtroom proceedings, with any device capable of photographing, recording or broadcasting, unless permitted by an order of the Court.~~

~~Photographing, recording or broadcasting of any courtroom proceedings is permitted only if specifically authorized by the judge presiding over the involved proceedings, in an Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage (Judicial Council Form MC 510). The issuance of an order for the media, an attorney, a party, or a member of the public is within the discretion of the judge presiding over the involved proceedings. Each judge shall exercise his or her discretion as to what may and may not be appropriate or necessary to balance and protect the rights of litigants, witnesses, victims, the public and the media. There is no right to a hearing if a judge denies a request.~~

~~Notwithstanding this provision, parties to adoption proceedings may photograph, record or broadcast the proceedings unless otherwise ordered by the judge presiding over the proceedings.~~

~~No photographing, recording or broadcasting shall occur in the hallways of any courthouse in a manner to block or impede the flow of pedestrian traffic in and out of the courtrooms or in the hallways. If a court order (Form MC 510) is obtained, media activity shall take place in the designated media interview stations, as follows:~~

~~(a) 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield—First floor, in front of the Court lobby display in the Northeast corner of the lobby;~~

~~(b) 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield—Second floor, adjacent to Department 1 and Department 2; and~~

~~(c) 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield—First floor, Northwest lobby of the Court.~~

~~For all other courthouse facilities, if authorized, media activity shall take place in the lobby areas as designated by Court security personnel on duty.~~

~~There shall be no photography, recording or broadcasting in or of the Jury Assembly Room, nor in or of any area designated for the jurors' use. There shall be no photography, recording or broadcasting of proceedings held in chambers; proceedings closed to the public; jury selection; jurors or spectators; conferences between an attorney and a client, witness, or aide; between attorneys; or between attorneys and the judge at the bench.~~

~~This order is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, record or broadcast from outside the entrances and exits of any courthouse facilities, provided such activity does not obstruct access to or from the courthouse facilities.~~

*This rule governs the use of photographic, recording, and broadcasting equipment in court by the public, including members of the media. The procedures set forth herein have been developed for the protection of all parties to ensure the secure and efficient handling of cases and events inside all justice centers in the Kern County Superior Court. No video recording, still photography, or electronic recording is permitted inside of the courthouses, Revenue Recovery Division, Jury Services, Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, or Traffic Divisions ("Justice Centers") except as permitted in California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and this rule. Nothing in this rule is intended to create a public forum in the Justice Centers. Violation of California Rule of Court rule 1.150 or this rule may result in termination of media coverage, contempt of court proceedings, and/or monetary sanctions as provided by law.*

*(a) Definitions:*

- 1. "Media coverage" means any video recording, photographing, audio recording, or broadcasting of court proceedings by the media using television, radio, photographic or recording equipment, or other similar types of technology. Rule 1.150 (b)(1), California Rules of Court.*

2. *“Media” means any person or organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and includes any newspaper, radio or television station or network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house publication, professional journal, and other news-reporting or news-gathering agency. Rule 1.150(b)(2), California Rules of Court.*
  3. *“Media Event” means any photographing or electronic recording of news conferences or statements to members of the media and the general public occurring outside of a courtroom but inside the Kern County Superior Court.*
  4. *“Court” means the courtroom at issue, Justice Center, as well as its entrances, exits, common areas, and service windows. Rule 1.150(b)(3), California Rules of Court.*
  5. *“Judicial Officer” includes any judge, judicial officer, commissioner, referee, or temporary judge, assigned to or presiding at the proceeding. Rule 1.150(b)(4), California Rules of Court.*
- (b) *Requests for Coverage. With respect to courtroom proceedings, requests for any type of video, still photography, or audio coverage, including pool cameras, must be made in compliance with California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(e)(1), and submitted to the judicial officer assigned to hear the case on Judicial Council forms MC-500 “Media Request to Photograph, Record or Broadcast” and MC-510 “Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage.” A copy of the request also must be submitted to the Court’s Public Affairs Officer. All media coverage of courtroom proceedings must comply with the provisions of rule 1.150.*
- (c) *Limitation on Coverage. The following limitations apply at all Justice Centers unless an exception is permitted by written judicial order.*
1. *Except as provided in this local rule and the California Rules of Court, video recording, photographing, or electronic recording by the media and general public is not permitted in any part of a Justice Center, including, but not limited to lobby areas, cafeterias, halls, stairs, escalators, service windows, and elevators.*
  2. *Video recording, photographing, or electronic recording devices must be turned off while transporting them in any area of the Court.*
  3. *All audible electronic devices must be turned off when they are in courtrooms.*
  4. *Any photography of the interior of a courtroom through glass door windows or from the area between the double doors at the entrance of a courtroom is prohibited.*
- (d) *Photographing Publicly Available Documents and Exhibits. With the exception of Juvenile court records and trial exhibits, this rule does not prohibit the use of cameras or other photographic equipment, provided the devices are used solely for the purpose of photographing case file documents that are not otherwise confidential or sealed and are available in the clerk’s office or from court kiosks.*

- (e) Non-case Related Requests to Film in Justice Center facilities. Special requests for video recording or photographing empty courtrooms, jury rooms or employee work areas must be made in writing and submitted to the Court's Public Affairs Officer before the proposed video recording or photographing is to occur. The request should be made a minimum of five calendar days prior to the requested date and include the amount of time needed to complete the activity. The request must also be accompanied by a completed copy of the Third-Party Use of Court Facilities Request Form and a Certificate of Liability Insurance, both of which may be obtained by sending an email to PublicAffairs@kern.courts.ca.gov. The request must be approved by the Presiding Judge.*
- (f) Law Enforcement Use of Body-Worn Cameras. Law enforcement personnel with body-worn cameras shall not activate the recording function of the cameras unless involved in law enforcement activities in the courthouse. For purposes of this paragraph, "law enforcement activities" does not include being present in connection with a pending matter as a witness or to assist the prosecution. Law enforcement officers stationed at the courthouse, i.e., bailiffs, guards, and transportation deputies/officers, shall not activate the recording function unless authorized by the court.*
- (g) In addition to the foregoing, if law enforcement personnel are present in a courthouse where juvenile matters are heard, they must comply with Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 and California Rules of Court, rule 5.552.*
- (h) Ceremonial Events. Unless the Court orders otherwise, this rule does not prohibit photography or recording of ceremonial events held by the court, a governmental agency or bar association, mock trial competitions, weddings, adoptions, or a lecture or training that is held in a courtroom when court is not in session.*

### **Number 3: Proposed Adoption of Local Rule – Under General Rules**

#### **Chapter I. General Rules**

##### ***Rule 1.19 The Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Communications Devices (Effective 7/1/26)***

*To ensure that the Court can provide the highest possible level of customer service, while preserving a court user's right to privacy, the use of electronic recording devices, including cellular telephones, for the purposes of verbal communication, photographing, video recording, and/or audio recording, is expressly prohibited at any walk-up window at any of the Court's Justice Centers. This includes the Revenue Recovery Division, Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Jury Services, and the Traffic Windows. The use of cellular telephones and other communication devices at these locations is disruptive and can compromise what would otherwise be a direct and uninterrupted line of communication between court staff and court users. Persons with disabilities who require a special accommodation to access court programs, services or activities may request the needed accommodation by filling out the Request for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities and Order form, Judicial Council Form MC-410. Forms are also available at the Clerk's office and the ADA Coordinator's office of each Courthouse, and by mail upon request to the ADA Coordinator's office. Pursuant to the ADA, the Court has designated*

*an ADA Coordinator at each Court facility to carry out each facility's compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the ADA. For ADA accommodations, please contact Human Resources at (661) 610-6000.*

(Renumber current Rule 1.19 – Rule 1.24)

#### **Number 4: Proposed Amendments To Local Form**

##### **Petition and Report of Personal Representative – KRN SUP CRT PR-2451**

###### **Creditors**

[Applicable to estates in which letters were first issued on or after January 1, 2026]

- d.  *The notice required by Probate Code §9202(e) was mailed or submitted electronically to the Director of the California Department of Child Support Services on (date): \_\_\_\_\_; or*
- Petitioner and the attorney for the estate do not know or have reason to believe that the decedent had a child support obligation under an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.*

#### **Number 5: Proposed Adoption Of Local Rule – Under Criminal Rules**

##### **Chapter V. Criminal Rules**

###### ***Rule 5.2.1.4 Notice Requirements Regarding Bail Review Hearings (Effective 7/1/26)***

*Motions filed in felony cases for a bail review hearing, also known as a Humphrey Motion (In re Humphrey (2021) 11 Cal.5th 135), must be served on the Kern County Probation Department, located at 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301, at least two days prior to the hearing on the request. The clerk of the court shall reject any motion that does not contain proof of timely service on the Kern County Probation Department.*

(Renumber current Rule 5.2.1.4.1 – Rule 5.2.1.4.4)

#### **Number 6: Proposed Amendment To Local Rule – Under General Rules**

##### **Chapter I. General Rules**

###### **Rule 1.10 Electronic Filing and Service (Effective 1/1/12; renum. 1/1/13; rev. 1/1/17; rev. 7/1/18; rev. 1/1/19; rev. 7/1/19; rev. 7/1/20; rev. 1/1/21; rev. 1/1/23; rev. 1/1/24; rev. 1/1/25; rev. 7/1/26)**

(a) – (f) \*\*\*

(g) Each represented party, or unrepresented parties who consent to electronic service, must furnish their electronic service address(es) on the first occasion they electronically file any paper. Each party ~~can only~~ *may* have ~~one~~ *two* electronic service addresses in each case. The electronic service address(es) provided will be deemed proper for service. (Effective 1/1/25; rev. 7/1/26)

(h) – (q) \*\*\*

## **Number 7: Proposed Amendment To Local Rule- Under General Rules**

### **Chapter I. General Rules**

#### **Rule 1.10 Electronic Filing and Service** (Effective 1/1/12; renum. 1/1/13; rev. 1/1/17; rev. 7/1/18; rev. 1/1/19; rev. 7/1/19; rev. 7/1/20; rev. 1/1/21; rev. 1/1/23; rev. 1/1/24; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

This rule governs permissive and mandatory electronic filing and service of documents in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern. As authorized by Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) section 1010.6(d) and California Rules of Court (CRC), rule 2.253(b)(1), ~~Mandatory E~~electronic Ffiling (E-File) will be ~~required~~ *mandatory* for *all filings by parties represented by counsel* ~~represented parties in all cases filed in the following case types:~~ Limited and Unlimited Civil, ~~case types, including~~ Family Law cases, Probate cases, *cases affecting parentage (adoptions, surrogacies, abandonments, terminations of parental rights, and emancipations)*, cases related to *the* California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Civil Writ ~~petitions~~ cases, and Unlawful Detainers. Habeas Corpus proceedings are not subject to the mandatory e-filing requirement and ~~appeal related documents cannot be e-filed at this time.~~ *Document types not permitted to be filed electronically are set forth in subdivision 1.* (Effective 1/1/12; rev. 1/1/17; rev. 7/1/19; rev. 7/1/20; rev. 1/1/21; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) – (k) \*\*\*

(l) Certain documents/filings are not eligible for submission through electronic filing and must be ~~filed~~ *submitted in hard copy format* ~~through conventional methods.~~ These documents include: (Effective 7/1/18; rev. 7/1/19; rev. 1/1/21; rev. 1/1/24; renum. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

1. Any and all documents deemed sealed by California Rules of Court or statute;
2. Any and all documents requested or intended to be sealed by the Court;
3. Subpoenaed documents;
4. Bonds;
5. Undertakings;
6. Civil Bench Warrants;
7. Original Contracts/Instruments;
8. Over-sized Documents/Exhibits;
9. Sister-State Judgments;
10. Affidavits re Real Property of Small Value;
11. Original Wills/Codicils;

~~12. Filings related to Surrogacies, Petitions to Declare Minors Free from Parental Care and Control, Petitions to Terminate Parental Rights, and Adoptions submitted to the Family Law Department; and~~

~~13.~~ 12. Any appeal-related documents, *including notices of appeal*; and

13. *Electronic evidence.*

## **Number 8: Proposed Amendment To Local Rule - Under General Rules**

### **Chapter I. General Rules**

**Rule 1.1.1 Remote Court Appearances** (Effective 7/1/03; rev. 7/1/09; renum. 1/1/13; rev. 7/1/14; rev. 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/24; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) – (d) \*\*\*

1. – 3. \*\*\*

(e) – (h) \*\*\*

(i) All other Local Rules of Court authorizing a digital audio appearance will also permit a video appearance, as both manners of appearances are allowed by California Rules of Court, rule 3.672. Rule 3.672 replaces references to California Rules of Court, rule 3.670, which has been suspended from January 1, 2022 to ~~January 1, 2026~~ *January 1, 2027*. (Effective 3/7/22; rev. and renum. 1/1/24; renum. and rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(j) This rule shall remain in effect until ~~January 1, 2026~~ *January 1, 2027*. (Effective 3/7/22; rev. and renum. 1/1/24; renum. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

## **Number 9: Proposed Amendment to Local Rule – Under Civil Rules and Civil Management**

### **Chapter III. Civil Rules and Civil Case Management**

**Rule 3.2.1 Remote Court Appearances** (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/24; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) \*\*\*

1. – 2. \*\*\*

(b) \*\*\*

(c) This rule shall be in effect until ~~January 1, 2026~~ *January 1, 2027*. (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/24; *rev. 7/1/26*)

## **Number 10: Proposed Amendment to Local Rule – Under Family Law Rules**

**Rule 6.3.5 Remote Court Appearances** (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) – (c) \*\*\*

(d) This rule shall be in effect until ~~January 1, 2026~~ *January 1, 2027*. (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

**Number 11: Proposed Amendment to Local Rule – Probate Matters**

**Rule 8.2.2 Remote Court Appearances** (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)

(a) – (c) \*\*\*

(d) This rule shall be in effect until ~~January 1, 2026~~ *January 1, 2027*. (Effective 3/7/22; rev. 1/1/25; *rev. 7/1/26*)