

**FILED**

APR 09 2020

Clerk of the Court  
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara  
BY David K. Walker DEPUTY

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8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
9 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

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11 GENERAL ORDER OF THE COURT RE:  
12 APPEARANCES OF CONSERVATEES AND INVOLUNTARY PATIENTS  
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14 This Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

15 1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency  
16 related to COVID-19.

17 2. On March 16, 2020, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Officer issued an  
18 order directing all individuals living in Santa Clara County to shelter at their place of residence  
19 except that they may leave to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain  
20 essential activities and work for essential businesses and governmental services to mitigate the  
21 spread of COVID-19.

22 3. On March 28, 2020, the Judicial Council of California unanimously approved a  
23 number of recommendations, including directing the superior courts to make use of available  
24 technology, when possible, to conduct judicial proceedings and court operations remotely to  
25 protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, and

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1 witnesses. This includes the use of video, audio, and telephonic means for remote appearances,  
2 reporting, and interpreting in judicial proceedings, the electronic exchange and authentication of  
3 documentary evidence, and the use of e-filing and e-service.

4 4. On March 31, 2020, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Officer issued an  
5 updated order to all individuals, businesses and government agencies that clarifies, strengthens  
6 and extends certain terms of the prior shelter in place order to increase social distancing and  
7 reduce person-to-person contact in order to further slow transmission of COVID-19. The March  
8 31 order is effective through May 3, 2020. Although court personnel are categorically exempt  
9 from the order while performing Court functions, the Court must employ all necessary  
10 emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19  
11 pandemic and Court functions must be performed in compliance with Social Distancing  
12 Requirements to the greatest extent feasible.

13 5. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19  
14 pandemic has resulted in or is expected to result in significant interference with Superior Court  
15 services and proceedings.


16 6. Departments 5 and 13 of the Probate division of the Superior Court at this time  
17 are limited to proceedings required to protect the safety of individuals in conservatorship matters,  
18 proceedings under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, and other emergency proceedings.

19 7. To ensure the safety and well-being of proposed conservatees during this time,  
20 upon the request of the attorney for the proposed conservatee, the Court may waive the  
21 appearance of or permit the telephonic appearance of any proposed conservatee required to be  
22 produced under Probate Code § 1825.

23 8. To ensure the safety and well-being of involuntary patients during this time, upon  
24 the request of an involuntary patient's representative, the Court may waive the appearance of or  
25 permit the telephonic appearance of any involuntary patient required to be produced under

1 chapter 2, article 7 of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, beginning at Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code § 5325 et seq.

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4 Dated: April 9, 2020

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6 Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan  
7 Santa Clara County Superior Court  
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