

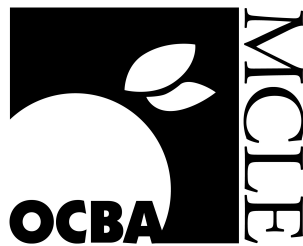
*The Orange County Bar Association  
Covid-19 Task Force Presents*

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# 2021 OC COURTS UPDATE

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Friday, February 26, 2021



## Speakers

**Honorable Erick L. Larsh**

*Orange County Superior Court  
Presiding Judge*

**Honorable Lon F. Hurwitz**

*Orange County Superior Court  
Supervising Judge, Family Law Panel*

**Honorable Gerald G. Johnston**

*Orange County Superior Court  
Supervising Judge, Probate Panel*

**Honorable Layne H. Melzer**

*Orange County Superior Court  
Supervising Judge, Civil Panel*

## Moderator

**Daniel S. Robinson, Esq.**

*Robinson Calcagnie, Inc.*



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

Chambers of  
**ERICK L. LARSH**  
PRESIDING JUDGE

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST  
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

## **Fifth Amended Administrative Order No. 20/07**

### **PROBATE ORDER REGARDING COURT CLOSURE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 68115, at the Court's request, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has issued emergency orders due to the COVID-19 emergency authorizing the significant reduction of services to the public, with minimal exceptions for critical functions. The Presiding Judge therefore issued various Implementation Orders and Administrative Orders on March 17, 2020, March 23, 2020, March 24, 2020, March 27, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 26, 2020 and May 29, 2020.

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Emergency Rules and Orders, the Court hereby updates prior orders as follows:

1. The court is processing all Probate & Mental Health related filings. Due to the operational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, processing timelines may be delayed.
2. Effective February 1, 2021, the court will resume hearing in-person jury trials subject to approval by the Supervising Judge.
3. Due to various ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court will significantly limit in-person appearances. Other than jury trials, all appearances will be conducted via video using the court's designated video platform unless an in-person appearance is specifically ordered by the court. If a party does not have the ability to connect via video, the party is to call the court at 657-622-8278 to request an alternative means to appear. Further information is available on the court's COVID-19 Probate website.
4. Notice in Probate Cases
  - a. If timely service was given for a hearing on a petition that was subsequently rescheduled by the court as a result of the pandemic, parties will be required to provide new notice of the rescheduled hearing date in the same manner that the original notice had been given.


Superior Court of California  
County of Orange

- b. Until further notice, parties must include the following language when serving notice of hearing in all Probate cases:

(1) You must attend the hearing by video remote using the court's designated video platform; (2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.

5. Beginning February 1, 2021, the Conservatorship Orientation Program will be available online as a video orientation. Your completion of the video orientation is mandatory prior to the hearing date on the Petition for Appointment of Conservator. The video can be found on the court's website at: <https://www.occourts.org/directory/probate> or <https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html>. If you are not able to access the video, please contact the court at 657-622-8278 or submit a question via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.
6. Until further notice, electronic submission of letters of guardianship and conservatorships will be allowed and require a signature (electronic, digital or otherwise). Letters without signatures will not be accepted for processing.
7. Until further notice, electronic submission of bonds will be allowed. The submitting party must retain possession of the original bond and make it available to the court upon request.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021, at Santa Ana California.



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Erick L. Larsh  
Presiding Judge



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

## Civil Limited, Unlimited and Complex

UPDATE – Thursday, February 11, 2021

**Effective May 26, 2020, the court began processing Civil related matters as noted below. Due to social distancing requirements, the public will have limited access to court buildings. Unless the court orders otherwise, appearances will be conducted via remote appearance as noted below.**

### **PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY BEFORE TRAVELING TO THE CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER.**

To address the workload impact of as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the court has taken the following actions via Administrative Orders.

#### **1. Processing of Filings**

The processing of Civil related filings resumes May 26, 2020. Due to the operational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, processing timelines may be delayed.

- All Civil Limited, Unlimited and Complex filings shall be submitted via eFiling through an approved eFiling Service Provider with the exception of filings by self-represented litigants.
- Self-represented litigants may also submit filings to the court as follows:
  - ❖ By email to [CivilSRL@occourts.org](mailto:CivilSRL@occourts.org). Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
    - ❖ Please provide a case number, if available
    - ❖ Please indicate in the subject field if the attached document is an urgent filing
    - ❖ If filing fees are due, the parties will be contacted by phone regarding payment.
  - ❖ By drop-box located by the front entrance of the Central Justice Center. Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
  - ❖ By US Mail at 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701.
  - ❖ Appointments for in-person counter services will resume starting February 22, 2021. Appointment availability may vary by case-type or unit and can be scheduled through the court's COVID-19 page via the "schedule in-person counter service" button.
  - ❖ Specific questions can be submitted via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.

#### **2. Self Help Services**

- Self Help assistance may be available for specific civil filings. The public is encouraged to consult Self Help prior to filing documents. Self Help may be contacted by phone at 657-622-8511 or by email at [SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org](mailto:SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org).

#### **3. Appearances**

Due to various restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court will continue to significantly limit in-person appearances until further notice. Unless specifically outlined below or ordered otherwise by the court, hearings in Civil Limited, Unlimited and Complex will continue to be

heard via remote appearance.

### Judgment Debtor Examinations

All Judgment Debtor Examinations will be scheduled for in-person appearance at the Central Justice Center at 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701.

### Name Change Petitions




- Through April 23, 2021, Name Change matters will be scheduled for in-person appearance at the Central Justice Center in Department D-100 (Civil Clerk's Office).
- Effective April 27, 2021, Name Change calendars will be scheduled for remote appearance via Zoom. If a party does not have the ability to connect via video, the party is to call 657-622-8513 to request an alternate means to appear.

### Remote appearances

Due to limited courtroom space, the court has created virtual civil courtrooms (VCC1 through VCC5) that will be dedicated to remote hearings via telephonic and/or video appearances. Virtual courtrooms will be assigned courtroom telephone numbers as well as CourtCall accounts as needed.

Remote appearance will be conducted as noted below.

- For hearings in C17 relating to Unlawful Detainers:
  - ❖ Appearances will continue to be conducted by video, unless ordered otherwise by the court on a case-by-case basis.
  - ❖ If a party does not have the ability to connect via video, the party is to call the courtroom or 657-622-8513 to request an alternate means to appear.

[Limited Civil Remote Hearing Instructions](#)   
[Limited Civil Courtroom Schedule & Requirements](#)   
[Department C03 Appearance Instructions](#) 




CLICK HERE TO APPEAR FOR C17, C61, C66, VCC1, VCC2, VCC3 AND VCC5  
HEARINGS

- ❖ Further instructions regarding video appearances are available on the Court's Civil COVID-19 website. Click on the "Limited Civil Remote Hearing Instructions" link posted on the top box of the Civil COVID-19 website page as shown above.
  - ❖ The public may view court proceedings online by clicking the Courtroom Live Streaming link on the court's website and selecting the department.
- For hearings in C17 relating to Civil Limited:
    - ❖ Appearances will be conducted by telephonic appearance through CourtCall. Parties must arrange their CourtCall appearances with CourtCall no later than 3:00 PM the prior business day.
    - ❖ To schedule a telephonic appearance via CourtCall, call 1-888-882-6878 or schedule online via their website at <https://courtcall.com/?c=CCHOME>.

- ❖ Consistent with California Rule of Court 3.670, a party that has received a fee waiver will not be charged the fees for telephone appearance. CourtCall will collect the required fees from all other parties. This action is supported by the Second Statewide Order dated March 30, 2020, Executive Order N-38-20 and the court's Administrative Order 20/06.
- ❖ Parties who have not appeared in their case prior to the hearing and seek a fee waiver can submit their fee waiver request to the court in advance of the hearing date as follows:
  - By email to [CivilSRL@occourts.org](mailto:CivilSRL@occourts.org). Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
  - By drop-box located by the front entrance of the Central Justice Center. Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
  - Appointments for in-person counter services will resume starting February 22, 2021. Appointment availability may vary by case-type or unit and can be scheduled through the court's COVID-19 page via the "schedule in-person counter service" button.
  - Specific questions can be submitted via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.
  - Self Help assistance is available to the public via telephone at 657-622-8511 or by email at [SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org](mailto:SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org).
- ❖ The public may listen to remote court hearings at no cost by calling the public access line and entering the access code for the courtroom as noted on page 6. The public will be able to listen, but not participate in the proceedings.

➤ **For hearings scheduled in Departments C17, C61, C66, VCC1, VCC5:**

- ❖ Appearances will continue be conducted by video, unless ordered otherwise by the court on a case-by-case basis.
- ❖ If a party does not have the ability to connect via video, the party is to call the courtroom or 657-622-8513 to request an alternate means to appear.
- ❖ Further instructions regarding video appearances are available on the Court's Civil COVID- 19 website. Click on the "Limited Civil Remote Hearing Instructions" link posted on the top box of the Civil COVID-19 website page as shown below.

[Limited Civil Remote Hearing Instructions](#)   
[Limited Civil Courtroom Schedule & Requirements](#)   
[Department C03 Appearance Instructions](#) 

CLICK HERE TO APPEAR FOR C17, C61, C66, VCC1, VCC2, VCC3 AND VCC5  
 HEARINGS

- ❖ The public may view court proceedings online by clicking the Courtroom Live Streaming link on the court's website and selecting the department.

➤ **For hearings scheduled in Department C3:**

- ❖ Appearances will continue to be conducted by telephonic appearance through CourtCall. Parties must arrange their CourtCall appearances with CourtCall no later than 3:00 PM the prior business day.
- ❖ To schedule a telephonic appearance via CourtCall, call 1-888-882-6878 or schedule online



via their website at <https://courtcall.com/?c=CCHOME>.

- ❖ Consistent with California Rule of Court 3.670, a party that has received a fee waiver will not be charged the fees for telephone appearance. CourtCall will collect the required fees from all other parties. This action is supported by the Second Statewide Order dated March 30, 2020, Executive Order N-38-20 and the court's Administrative Order 20/06.
- ❖ Parties who have not appeared in their case prior to the hearing and seek a fee waiver can submit their fee waiver request to the court in advance of the hearing date as follows:
  - By email to [CivilSRL@occourts.org](mailto:CivilSRL@occourts.org). Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
  - By drop-box located by the front entrance of the Central Justice Center. Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
  - Appointments for in-person counter services will resume starting February 22, 2021. Appointment availability may vary by case-type or unit and can be scheduled through the court's COVID-19 page via the "schedule in-person counter service" button.
  - Specific questions can be submitted via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.

Self Help assistance is available to the public via telephone at 657-622-8511 or by email at [SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org](mailto:SelfHelpCivil@occourts.org).

- ❖ The public may listen to remote court hearings at no cost by calling the public access line and entering the access code for the courtroom as noted on page 6. The public will be able to listen but not participate in the proceedings.

➤ **For Civil Unlimited and Complex hearings scheduled in all other departments:**

- ❖ Unless otherwise ordered by the court, all Unlimited and Complex proceedings will continue be conducted via telephonic appearance through CourtCall with each party/attorney having the option to appear by CourtCall video if the judge, in his/her discretion, permits a video appearance instead of an audio appearance.
- ❖ Privately hired court reporters must also participate remotely. It is the responsibility of the party hiring a court reporter to make the necessary arrangements for his/her access to telephonic or video appearances. For example, the court reporter can be present with hiring party to view and report proceedings via video, etc. Per the Court's Privately-Retained Court Reporter policy, Local Form L-0860 (Stipulation and Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore) must be electronically filed with the court at least 5 days prior to the hearing when parties select a court reporter not on the Court-Approved Official Reporters Pro Tempore List.
- ❖ Consistent with California Rule of Court 3.670, a party that has received a fee waiver will not be charged the fees for telephone or video appearance. CourtCall will collect the required fees from all other parties. This action is supported by the Second Statewide Order dated March 30, 2020, Executive Order N-38-20 and the court's Administrative Order 20/06
- ❖ To schedule a telephonic appearance via CourtCall, call 1-888-882-6878 or schedule online via their website at <https://courtcall.com/?c=CCHOME>.

- ❖ The public may listen to remote court hearings at no cost by calling the public access line

and entering the access code for the courtroom as noted on page 6. The public will be able to listen but not participate in the proceedings.

#### **4. Civil Unlimited and Complex courtroom specific procedural information**

- Additional department specific procedural information is posted under the department specific website as follows:

- ❖ Civil Tentative Rulings: <https://www.occourts.org/directory/civil/tentative-rulings>

#### **5. Civil Unlimited Video Court Trials**

On July 14, 2020, the Presiding Judge issued an Administrative Order 20/22 authorizing video Civil court trials.

- Video court trials will continue to be conducted remotely, unless ordered otherwise by the court on a case-by-case basis.
- Effective February 16, 2021, the court will begin transitioning from WebEx to Zoom for remote court trials. The transition is expected to be completed by mid-March. Further details can be located on the department's General Policies and Procedures document posted on the court's website under Civil Calendar Information (<https://www.occourts.org/directory/civil/calendar-information/>). Instructions regarding Zoom are available on the Court's Civil COVID-19 website (<https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/civil.html>).
- Per Administrative Order 20/22, access to the audio and video of court trial proceedings will be provided to the public. Any member of the public wishing to attend a video court trial may do so by contacting the courtroom to obtain access instructions.



**Civil Limited, Unlimited and Complex  
Public Access Call-in Numbers**

Due to social distancing requirements members of the public will have limited access to court buildings. Unless the court orders otherwise, appearances for Civil Limited, Unlimited and Complex will be conducted remotely via CourtCall.

The public may listen to remote court hearings at no cost by calling the public access line and entering the access code and pin number (same number) when prompted for the courtroom as noted below. The public will be able to listen but not participate in the proceedings.

<b>Dept.</b>	<b>Judicial Officer</b>	<b>Public Access Number</b>	<b>Access Code</b>	<b>Pin Number</b>
C3	Judge Cramin	657-231-1414	6513404#	6513404#
C4	As Assigned	657-231-1414	12129800#	12129800#
C11	Judge Gastelum	657-231-1414	12129879#	12129879#
C12	Judge Melzer	657-231-1414	12129880#	12129880#
C13	Judge McCormick	657-231-1414	12129876#	12129876#
C14	Judge Moss	657-231-1414	12129881#	12129881#
C15	Judge Scott	657-231-1414	12129882#	12129882#
C16	Judge Di Cesare	657-231-1414	12129883#	12129883#
C17	Judge Knill	657-231-1414	12129804#	12129804#
C18	Judge Howard	657-231-1414	12129884#	12129884#
C19	Judge Schwarm	657-231-1414	12129885#	12129885#
C20	Judge Margines	657-231-1414	12129886#	12129886#
C21	Judge Servino	657-231-1414	12129887#	12129887#
C22	Judge Salter	657-231-1414	12129888#	12129888#
C23	Judge Hunt	657-231-1414	12129889#	12129889#
C24	Judge George	657-231-1414	12129890#	12129890#
C25	Judge Marks	657-231-1414	12129891#	12129891#
C26	Judge Lewis	657-231-1414	12129892#	12129892#
C31	Judge Lee	657-231-1414	12129893#	12129893#
C32	Judge Gooding	657-231-1414	12129894#	12129894#
C33	Judge Crandall	657-231-1414	12129895#	12129895#
C34	Judge Zeltzer	657-231-1414	12129896#	12129896#
C42	Judge Hoffer	657-231-1414	12129897#	12129897#
CX101	Judge Sanders	657-231-1414	12129898#	12129898#
CX102	Judge Wilson	657-231-1414	12129899#	12129899#
CX103	Judge Nakamura	657-231-1414	12129852#	12129852#
CX104	Judge Claster	657-231-1414	12129801#	12129801#
CX105	Judge Sherman	657-231-1414	12129802#	12129802#
N5	Judge Griffin	657-231-1414	12129877#	12129877#
VCC4	Judge Fell	657-231-1414	12129810#	12129810#



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

## Transition to Zoom for Remote Civil Court Trials Beginning February 16, 2021

Starting February 16, 2021, Civil Unlimited and Complex Civil will begin transition to the use of Zoom instead of WebEx as a video conferencing technology for conducting civil court trials remotely.

In addition to civil court trials, trial readiness conferences and other matters as designated by the department will be conducted through Zoom, unless otherwise specified. Law and Motion will continue to be heard via CourtCall per Administrative Order No. 20/06.

Parties are directed to familiarize themselves with the General Policies and Procedures for the department where their case is scheduled. If a department has adopted a standard link for Zoom access, the link information will be posted in the department's General Policies and Procedures document. If a Zoom link is not listed within the General Policies and Procedures document, the parties will be otherwise notified by the courtroom.

- Civil Unlimited - <https://ocscefm1.occourts.org/directory/civil/limited-unlimited-civil/calendars/ex-parte.cfm>
- Civil Complex - <https://www.occourts.org/directory/civil/complex-civil/calendar-schedule/civil-panel-schedule.html>

For certain proceedings, the department may provide a unique meeting link for the hearing. Questions about the remote appearance technology used for specific hearings should be directed to the department.

Remote hearing instructions for Zoom are posted in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese on the court's website under the Policies, Procedures, and General Information section of the court's civil page at <https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/civil.html>.

Implementation of Zoom will occur over several weeks, with several departments going live on Zoom starting February 16. All Civil Unlimited and Complex Civil departments will be converted to Zoom by mid-March.