



Chambers of  
**KIRK H. NAKAMURA**  
PRESIDING JUDGE

# Superior Court of California County of Orange

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST  
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20/28**

### **Suspension of Civil and Probate In-Person Trials**

This Order establishes temporary changes to Civil and Probate Operations to ensure the safe and orderly administration of justice and protect the health of those who participate in the justice system in light of the COVID-19 surge currently impacting Orange County.

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California, and the County of Orange have recognized that the world, country, state, and county face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Orange County is increasing at an alarming rate, forcing the county to return to the most restrictive tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and to be subject to a limited stay at home order. The Orange County Superior Court has seen an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 tests among court employees and justice partners. The CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Orange County Health Care Agency have recommended that individuals stay home when possible, but if it is necessary to leave the house, to avoid crowds and observe stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people to mitigate the spread of the virus.

To limit and manage the transmission of COVID-19 in the court system, the Orange County Superior Court is implementing the following changes to Civil and Probate Operations:

No new civil or probate jury trials will be conducted through January 29, 2021. No new civil or probate in-person bench trials will be conducted through January 29, 2021.

No new jury or in-person unlawful detainer trials will be conducted through January 29, 2021.

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This order does not affect remote trials. Hearing dates for all other trials remain on calendar via telephonic or video appearance as noticed by the court and new dates will be provided at hearing or as ordered by the court.

No small claims trials will be conducted between December 14, 2020 and January 29, 2021. Small Claims cases set during this time period will be rescheduled with notice to all parties.

This Order is effective immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020 at Santa Ana, California.

12/11/20

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Date



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Kirk H. Nakamura  
Presiding Judge