



# Superior Court of California County of Orange

## Process to Commence Civil Jury Trials Effective September 1, 2020

Although the court continues to face numerous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements, the court is committed to exploring opportunities to expand services to the public.

Effective September 1, 2020, the court will implement a process to select cases to commence civil jury trials. In order to ensure compliance with safety measures keeping court staff, jurors, and members of the public safe, several courtrooms at Central Justice Center, Civil Complex Center, and West Justice Center will be designated to be used for Civil jury trials.

Various factors will be considered by the Civil Supervising Judge in selecting cases to commence jury trial, including the following:

- Statutory priority/preference (CCP § 36) not already scheduled
- Case age
- Estimated length of trial
- Number of parties
- 5-year statutory requirement (CCP §§ 583.310 *et seq.*)
- Stipulation to fewer than 12 jurors
- Whether the trial is an expedited jury trial (CCP §§ 630.01 *et seq.*)
- Other relevant case-specific factors

The selection process will be as follows:

- Cases that answer ready to commence trial will be placed on the Trailing Trial List on the day set for trial.
- The Civil Supervising Judge will review the list and consider the factors listed above in determining priority.
- Based on the priority and availability of designated courtroom, the Civil Supervising Judge will select cases to commence jury trial.
- Cases will remain on the Trailing Trial List through Thursday and will be returned to the assigned courtroom on Friday to discuss a future trial date.
- Cases may be set for Voluntary Settlement Conference (VSC) or Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) while on the Trailing Trial List.