



# Superior Court of California County of Orange ***News Release***

Public Information Office  
Contact: Kostas Kalaitzidis, (657) 622-7097

May 21, 2021

## **Court Implements Online Check-in / Zoom Pilot Program for Civil Unlimited**

**Santa Ana, CA** – The Orange County Superior Court is implementing an online check-in pilot program to facilitate the use of Zoom for hearings, including law and motion calendars, in five Civil Unlimited courtrooms at zero cost to the public.

Given the duration of the pandemic and the need to expand and enhance services to the public during this critical time, the court will pilot a zero-cost remote appearance alternative via an online check-in process and the use of Zoom. The pilot program will commence on June 7, 2021 in departments C12, C13, C14, C15, and C31.

“Access to justice during the pandemic has been our guiding principle,” Presiding Judge Erick Larsh said, adding, “the use of technology such as Zoom at zero cost to the public provides equal access and is an excellent alternative to in-person appearances, thus helping the Court protect the health of our community, justice partners, employees and judicial officers.”

Counsel and self-represented parties will be required to check-in for their case through the court’s Civil video appearance website at <https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/civil.html> prior to the commencement of their hearing. Once the online check-in is completed, counsel and self-represented parties will be directed to launch the courtroom’s Zoom hearing session. Check-in instructions will be available on the court’s website starting Friday, June 4, 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required the court to mandate remote appearances for various Civil calendars previously accessible through a fee-based service. This pilot will allow remote access to the court at no cost to the public while also allowing counsel and self-represented parties to record their remote appearance for the court’s record. If successful, the court anticipates implementing the no-cost appearance program in all Civil Unlimited courtrooms within a couple of months.

###