



Chambers of
Erick L. Larsh
PRESIDING JUDGE

Superior Court of California County of Orange

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 21/08 Public Access to Criminal Proceedings

This Order provides for the termination of livestreaming of criminal proceedings and the opening of criminal courtrooms to the public and the media.

The Court recognizes that public access to criminal proceedings is a right guaranteed to the press and public by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and article I, section 29 of the California Constitution, and to the defendant by the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and article I, section 15 of the California Constitution. In order to protect the health and safety of court staff and participants during the COVID-19 pandemic while also providing public access to criminal proceedings, pursuant to Administrative Order 20/19 dated June 15, 2020, each criminal trial court was outfitted a video camera to enable live streaming of criminal courtroom proceedings to the public on the Court's public website.

As of June 15, 2021, California retired its Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Capacity limits and physical distancing are no longer required in the courthouse. Therefore, barring exceptional circumstances, all criminal courtrooms are now open and available to members of the public and the media. Beginning June 28, 2021, the Orange County Superior Court will cease the livestreaming of criminal proceedings. Administrative Order 20/19 is hereby repealed, effective June 27, 2021.

If exceptional circumstances exist, such as a jury trial with widespread media and public interest, such that all interested parties cannot be accommodated in one courtroom, a notice will be posted on the Court's public website indicating that livestreaming of the proceedings will be available with a link to where the livestream of the matter may be found.

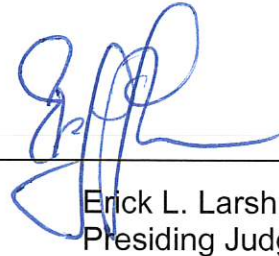
This Order is adopted pursuant to the authority granted the Presiding Judge by California Rules of Court, rule 10.603 to establish policies for the Court in a manner that promotes access to justice for all members of the public, to apportion the business of the Court, to allocate resources of the Court, to maximize the use of judicial and other resources, and to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the duties specified by the rules of court. It is also adopted pursuant to the Court's inherent authority to ensure the orderly administration of justice and the safety and security of the Court and its participants. (See *Rutherford v. Owens-Illinois, Inc.* (1997) 16 Cal.4th 953, 967; *People v. Woodward* (1992) 4 Cal.4th 376, 385; *In re Carvallo* (1973) 29 Cal.App.3d 983, 986.)

This Order is effective on June 28, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

6/25/2021

Date



Erick L. Larsh
Presiding Judge