

1 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
2 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

3  
4 GENERAL ORDER RE: COURT ACCESS  
5

6 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease  
7 Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of California have recognized that the world,  
8 country, and state face a life threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

9 WHEREAS, in response to the spread of COVID- 19, Governor Gavin Newsom on  
10 March 4, 2020, declared a state of emergency in California, which was followed on March 13,  
11 2020, by a national emergency. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order  
12 N-33-20, requiring all Californians to stay home, subject to certain limited exemptions. Courts  
13 are included in this exemption.

14 WHEREAS, Public Health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of  
15 Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent  
16 social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable  
17 individuals to avoid public gatherings and spaces. The continuous operation of our courts is  
18 essential for our constitutional form of government, for providing due process and protecting the  
19 public.

20 WHEREAS, as of April 22, 2020, Santa Barbara County has had 429 positive tests for  
21 COVID-19 resulting in 5 deaths. There has been 1 positive test of an attorney on March 15,  
22 2020 and 1 positive test for an inmate on April 17, 2020, both of whom appeared in different  
23 courtrooms in Santa Barbara County while infectious.

24 WHEREAS, the courts are clearly places with high risks during this pandemic because  
25 they require gatherings of judicial officers, court staff, litigants, attorneys, witnesses, defendants,  
26 law enforcement, and juries in excess of the numbers allowed for gathering under current  
27 executive and health orders.

28 THEREFORE, access to all Santa Barbara County courthouses remains restricted at all

1 times to judges, commissioners, court staff, county staff, Judicial Council staff, vendors, and  
2 authorized persons, which includes but is not limited to news reporters and news media  
3 representatives.

4           THEREFORE, access to all court proceedings, including, but not limited to,  
5 arraignments, preliminary hearings, restraining orders or ex parte matters, remains limited to,  
6 parties, attorneys, witnesses, victims, ADA authorized support or other authorized persons,  
7 which includes, but is not limited to, news reporters and news media representatives.

8           THEREFORE, all persons permitted to enter Santa Barbara County courthouses pursuant  
9 to this order must abide by social distancing. Each person must provide their own approved  
10 masks and gloves and wear both at all times in public areas of the courthouse.

11           THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2020 at 5:00 P.M UNTIL FURTHER  
12 ORDER OF THIS COURT.

13  
14  
15 Dated: April 22, 2020

*Michael J. Carrozzo*

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Michael J. Carrozzo, Presiding Judge