

DEC 07 2020

BY 
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Deputy Clerk

1
2 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
3 COUNTY OF LAKE
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5 GENERAL ORDER RE: REVISED SCOPE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
6 AND OPERATIONS COMMENCING DECEMBER 7, 2020
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9 On November 28, 2020, the Lake County Public Health Officer
10 advised of a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Lake
11 County and that the virus is now spreading freely throughout the
12 County by way of community and household transmission. This
13 includes recent outbreaks of the virus at the County Jail. On
14 November 29, 2020, the State transmission metrics blueprint placed
15 Lake County into the Widespread (Purple) Tier. On December 3, the
16 Governor imposed a Regional Stay At Home Order imposing
17 restrictions on activities based on rolling Hospital ICU bed
18 capacity in our region (Northern California Region).
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20 Given the significant current surge in the prevalence of the
21 virus in the community, the intent of this Order is to further
22 reduce and limit the appearance and attendance of people at the
23 court facilities so as to limit assembly and gathering of persons
24 and thereby mitigate opportunity for community exposure and
25 transmission of the virus including to and from the inmate
26 population and correctional staff at the County Jail.
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28 In supplement and amendment to the General Order Re: Scope Of
29 Judicial Proceedings and Operations Under Statewide Emergency Rules
30 Of Court, and in light of the information from the Lake County

1 Public Health Officer, the Executive Orders of the Governor, Orders
2 of the Chief Justice issued March 30, 2020 and April 29, 2020, the
3 Statewide Emergency Rules of Court and the general authority of the
4 court to adopt methods for the safe and orderly administration of
5 justice, the court finds good cause and, it is hereby ordered as
6 follows:

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8 A. The court will not be conducting jury trials for the trial
9 weeks of December 9 and 16, 2020. There are no jury trials set for
10 the trial week of December 23, 2020. The cases set for those dates
11 will be ordered continued to a date within statutory time for
12 trial.

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14 B. Commencing December 7, 2020, the following proceedings will
15 transition to and be conducted by remote appearance only:

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- 17 1. In-Custody Daily Criminal Arraignment Calendar;
- 18 2. Juvenile Detention Hearings;
- 19 3. Felony Law and Motion Calendar;
- 20 4. Felony Trial Readiness/Settlement Conferences;
- 21 5. Misdemeanor Arraignment Calendar;
- 22 6. Misdemeanor Disposition/Settings and Motions;
- 23 7. Misdemeanor Settlement Conferences; and,
- 24 6. Criminal Trial Assignment Conferences.

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26 C. Commencing December 14, 2020, the following proceedings
27 will transition to and be conducted by remote appearance only:

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- 29 1. Long-Cause Civil/Family/General/Limited Court Trials;

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1 2. All evidentiary hearings set in civil cases including
2 Injunction, Civil Harassment, Gun Violence, Workplace Violence and
3 Elder Abuse Restraining Orders;

4 3. All evidentiary hearings set in cases under the Family
5 Code including Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and
6 applications for temporary orders;

7 4. All evidentiary hearings in special proceedings
8 including Probate, Conservatorship and Guardianship cases; and,

9 5. Civil Long Cause Trial Assignment Calendar.

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11 D. Commencing December 21, 2020, the following proceedings
12 will, transition to and be conducted by remote appearance only:

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14 1. Small Claims Case Calendar;
15 2. Infraction/Traffic Calendar; and,
16 3. Unlawful Detainer/Eviction Calendar.

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18 E. Commencing December 7, 2020, and continuing until further
19 notice, the court will not be conducting civil jury trials. The
20 civil jury trials set to occur during the period of time to March
21 31, 2021, shall be vacated and set on the Case Management Calendar
22 for resetting of trial and settlement conference dates.

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24 F. Commencing December 7, 2020, the following proceedings will
25 remain as in-person proceedings except where personal appearance of
26 defendant and counsel is properly waived or there is a stipulation
27 to conduct the proceeding remotely:

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29 1. Felony Sentencing Calendars; and,
30 2. Felony Preliminary Hearing Calendars.

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G. It is the intent of this Order that the designated judicial proceedings be conducted whereby all parties, counsel and witnesses will be appearing and participating remotely. Those persons who desire to have access to observe the proceeding may also be permitted to attend remotely. The court will adopt, as necessary, appropriate policies, instructions and rules for the process of trials and evidentiary proceedings being conducted by remote technology.

H. Any judge of the court may, due to the particular circumstances of a case and the determination that a personal appearance is needed, or would be desirable, to provide fair opportunity for a party to present the case to the court, order that the proceeding be conducted by an in-person appearance(s) to the extent necessary to do so. A judge of the court may order the proceeding be conducted wholly or partially by remote proceeding in the interest of justice and by setting such terms and conditions for in-person process to accomplish the reduction of the number, frequency and length of time of in-person appearances in a case.

I. Except as modified herein, all prior General Orders of the court remain in effect. This General Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or vacated.

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2020



MICHAEL S. LUNAS
PRESIDING JUDGE