



AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT  
Adopted by the Judicial Council on April 6, 2020, effective April 6, 2020

Appendix I

**Emergency rule 1. Unlawful detainers**

**(a) Application**

Notwithstanding any other law, including Code of Civil Procedure sections 1166, 1167, 1169, and 1170.5, this rule applies to all actions for unlawful detainer.

**(b) Issuance of summons**

A court may not issue a summons on a complaint for unlawful detainer unless the court finds, in its discretion and on the record, that the action is necessary to protect public health and safety.

**(c) Entry of default**

A court may not enter a default or a default judgment for restitution in an unlawful detainer action for failure of defendant to appear unless the court finds both of the following:

(1) The action is necessary to protect public health and safety; and

(2) The defendant has not appeared in the action within the time provided by law, including by any applicable executive order.

**(d) Time for trial**

If a defendant has appeared in the action, the court may not set a trial date earlier than 60 days after a request for trial is made unless the court finds that an earlier trial date is necessary to protect public health and safety. Any trial set in an unlawful detainer proceeding as of April 6, 2020 must be continued at least 60 days from the initial date of trial.

**(e) Sunset of rule**

This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed by the Judicial Council.

1 **Emergency rule 2. Judicial foreclosures—suspension of actions**

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3 Notwithstanding any other law, this rule applies to any action for foreclosure on a  
4 mortgage or deed of trust brought under chapter 1, title 10, of part 2 of the Code of Civil  
5 Procedure, beginning at section 725a, including any action for a deficiency judgment, and  
6 provides that, until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency  
7 related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until this rule is amended or repealed by  
8 the Judicial Council:

- 9  
10 (1) All such actions are stayed, and the court may take no action and issue no  
11 decisions or judgments unless the court finds that action is required to further the  
12 public health and safety.  
13  
14 (2) Any statute of limitations for filing such an action is tolled.  
15  
16 (3) The period for electing or exercising any rights under that chapter, including  
17 exercising any right of redemption from a foreclosure sale or petitioning the court  
18 in relation to such a right, is extended.  
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21 **Emergency rule 3. Use of technology for remote appearances**

22  
23 **(a) Remote appearances**

24  
25 Notwithstanding any other law, in order to protect the health and safety of the public,  
26 including court users, both in custody and out of custody defendants, witnesses, court  
27 personnel, judicial officers, and others, courts must conduct judicial proceedings and  
28 court operations as follows:

- 29  
30 (1) Courts may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be  
31 conducted remotely.  
32  
33 (2) In criminal proceedings, courts must receive the consent of the defendant to  
34 conduct the proceeding remotely and otherwise comply with emergency rule  
35 5. Notwithstanding Penal Code sections 865 and 977 or any other law, the  
36 court may conduct any criminal proceeding remotely. As used in this rule,  
37 “consent of the defendant” means that the consent of the defendant is  
38 required only for the waiver of the defendant’s appearance as provided in  
39 emergency rule 5. For good cause shown, the court may require any witness  
40 to personally appear in a particular proceeding.  
41  
42 (3) Conducting proceedings remotely includes, but is not limited to, the use of  
43 video, audio, and telephonic means for remote appearances; the electronic

1 exchange and authentication of documentary evidence; e-filing and e-service;  
2 the use of remote interpreting; and the use of remote reporting and electronic  
3 recording to make the official record of an action or proceeding.  
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5 **(b) Sunset of rule**

6  
7 This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the  
8 state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or  
9 repealed by the Judicial Council.  
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12 **Emergency rule 4. Emergency Bail Schedule**

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14 **(a) Purpose**

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16 Notwithstanding any other law, this rule establishes a statewide Emergency Bail  
17 Schedule, which is intended to promulgate uniformity in the handling of certain  
18 offenses during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
19

20 **(b) Mandatory application**

21  
22 No later than 5 p.m. on April 13, 2020, each superior court must apply the  
23 statewide Emergency Bail Schedule:  
24

25 (1) To every accused person arrested and in pretrial custody.

26  
27 (2) To every accused person held in pretrial custody.  
28

29 **(c) Setting of bail and exceptions**

30  
31 Under the statewide Emergency Bail Schedule, bail for all misdemeanor and felony  
32 offenses must be set at \$0, with the exception of only the offenses listed below:  
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34 (1) A serious felony, as defined in Penal Code section 1192.7(c), or a violent  
35 felony, as defined in Penal Code section 667.5(c);  
36

37 (2) A felony violation of Penal Code section 69;  
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39 (3) A violation of Penal Code section 166(c)(1);  
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41 (4) A violation of Penal Code section 136.1 when punishment is imposed under  
42 section 136.1(c);  
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- 1           (5) A violation of Penal Code section 262;
- 2
- 3           (6) A violation of Penal Code sections 243(e)(1) or 273.5;
- 4
- 5           (7) A violation of Penal Code section 273.6 if the detained person made threats  
6 to kill or harm, has engaged in violence against, or has gone to the residence  
7 or workplace of, the protected party;
- 8
- 9           (8) A violation of Penal Code section 422 where the offense is punished as a  
10 felony;
- 11
- 12           (9) A violation of Penal Code section 646.9;
- 13
- 14           (10) A violation of an offense listed in Penal Code section 290(c);
- 15
- 16           (11) A violation of Vehicle Code sections 23152 or 23153;
- 17
- 18           (12) A felony violation of Penal Code section 463; and
- 19
- 20           (13) A violation of Penal Code section 29800.

21

22 **(d) Ability to deny bail**

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24 Nothing in the Emergency Bail Schedule restricts the ability of the court to deny  
25 bail as authorized by article I, section 12, or 28(f)(3) of the California Constitution.

26

27 **(e) Application of countywide bail schedule**

- 28
- 29           (1) The current countywide bail schedule of each superior court must remain in  
30 effect for all offenses listed in exceptions (1) through (13) of the Emergency  
31 Bail Schedule, including any count-specific conduct enhancements and any  
32 status enhancements.
- 33
- 34           (2) Each superior court retains the authority to reduce the amount of bail listed in  
35 the court's current countywide bail schedule for offenses in exceptions (1)  
36 through (13), or for any offenses not in conflict with the Emergency Bail  
37 Schedule.

38

39 **(f) Bail for violations of post-conviction supervision**

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- 41           (1) Under the statewide Emergency Bail Schedule, bail for all violations of  
42 misdemeanor probation, whether the arrest is with or without a bench  
43 warrant, must be set at \$0.

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(2) Bail for all violations of felony probation, parole, post-release community supervision, or mandatory supervision, must be set in accord with the statewide Emergency Bail Schedule, or for the bail amount in the court's countywide schedule of bail for charges of conviction listed in exceptions (1) through (13), including any enhancements.

**(g) Sunset of rule**

This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed by the Judicial Council.

**Emergency rule 5. Personal appearance waivers of defendants during health emergency**

**(a) Application**

Notwithstanding any other law, including Penal Code sections 865 and 977, this rule applies to all criminal proceedings except cases alleging murder with special circumstances and cases in which the defendant is currently incarcerated in state prison, as governed by Penal Code section 977.2.

**(b) Types of personal appearance waivers**

(1) With the consent of the defendant, the court must allow a defendant to waive his or her personal appearance and to appear remotely, either through video or telephonic appearance, when the technology is available.

(2) With the consent of the defendant, the court must allow a defendant to waive his or her appearance and permit counsel to appear on his or her behalf. The court must accept a defendant's waiver of appearance or personal appearance when:

(A) Counsel for the defendant makes an on the record oral representation that counsel has fully discussed the waiver and its implications with the defendant and the defendant has authorized counsel to proceed as counsel represents to the court;

(B) Electronic communication from the defendant as confirmed by defendant's counsel; or

1                   (C) Any other means that ensures the validity of the defendant's waiver.

2  
3   (c) Consent by the defendant

4  
5       (1) For purposes of arraignment and entry of a not guilty plea, consent means a  
6       knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of the right to appear personally in  
7       court. Counsel for the defendant must state on the record at each applicable  
8       hearing that counsel is proceeding with the defendant's consent.

9  
10      (2) For purposes of waiving time for a preliminary hearing, consent also means a  
11      knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of the right to hold a preliminary  
12      hearing within required time limits specified either in Penal Code section  
13      859b or under emergency orders issued by the Chief Justice and Chair of the  
14      Judicial Council.

15  
16      (3) The court must accept defense counsel's representation that the defendant  
17      understands and agrees with waiving any right to appear unless the court has  
18      specific concerns in a particular matter about the validity of the waiver.

19  
20   (d) Appearance through counsel

21  
22      (1) When counsel appears on behalf of a defendant, courts must allow counsel to  
23      do any of the following:

24  
25          (A) Waive reading and advisement of rights for arraignment.

26  
27          (B) Enter a plea of not guilty.

28  
29          (C) Waive time for the preliminary hearing.

30  
31      (2) For appearances by counsel, including where the defendant is either  
32      appearing remotely or has waived his or her appearance and or counsel is  
33      appearing by remote access, counsel must confirm to the court at each  
34      hearing that the appearance by counsel is made with the consent of the  
35      defendant.

36  
37   (e) Conduct of remote hearings

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39      (1) With the defendant's consent, a defendant may appear remotely for any  
40      pretrial criminal proceeding.

41  
42      (2) Where a defendant appears remotely, counsel may not be required to be  
43      personally present with the defendant for any portion of the criminal

1 proceeding provided that the audio and/or video conferencing system or other  
2 technology allows for private communication between the defendant and his  
3 or her counsel. Any private communication is confidential and privileged  
4 under Evidence Code section 952.  
5

6 **(f) Sunset of rule**  
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8 This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the  
9 state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or  
10 repealed by the Judicial Council.  
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13 **Emergency rule 6. Emergency orders: juvenile dependency proceedings**  
14

15 **(a) Application**  
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17 This rule applies to all juvenile dependency proceedings filed or pending until the  
18 state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted.  
19

20 **(b) Essential hearings and orders**  
21

22 The following matters should be prioritized in accordance with existing statutory  
23 time requirements.  
24

- 25 (1) Protective custody warrants filed under Welfare and Institutions Code section  
26 340.  
27
- 28 (2) Detention hearings under Welfare and Institutions Code section 319. The  
29 court is required to determine if it is contrary to the child's welfare to remain  
30 with the parent, whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal,  
31 and whether to vest the placing agency with temporary placement and care.  
32
- 33 (3) Psychotropic medication applications.  
34
- 35 (4) Emergency medical requests.  
36
- 37 (5) A petition for reentry of a nonminor dependent.  
38
- 39 (6) Welfare and Institutions Code section 388 petitions that require an immediate  
40 response based on the health and safety of the child, which should be  
41 reviewed for a prima facie showing of change of circumstances sufficient to  
42 grant the petition or to set a hearing. The court may extend the final ruling on  
43 the petition beyond 30 days.



1  
2 **(c) Foster care hearings and continuances during the state of emergency**  
3

4 **(1) A court may hold any proceeding under this rule via remote technology**  
5 **consistent with rule 5.531 and emergency rule 3.**  
6

7 **(2) At the beginning of any hearing at which one or more participants appears**  
8 **remotely, the court must admonish all the participants that the proceeding is**  
9 **confidential and of the possible sanctions for violating confidentiality.**  
10

11 **(3) The child welfare agency is responsible for notice of remote hearings unless**  
12 **other arrangements have been made with counsel for parents and children.**  
13 **Notice is required for all parties and may include notice by telephone or other**  
14 **electronic means. The notice must also include instructions on how to**  
15 **participate in the court hearing remotely.**  
16

17 **(4) Court reports**

18  
19 **(A) Attorneys for parents and children must accept service of the court**  
20 **report electronically.**  
21

22 **(B) The child welfare agency must ensure that the parent and the child**  
23 **receive a copy of the court report on time.**  
24

25 **(C) If a parent or child cannot receive the report electronically, the child**  
26 **welfare agency must deliver a hard copy of the report to the parent and**  
27 **the child on time.**  
28

29 **(5) Nothing in this subdivision prohibits the court from making statutorily**  
30 **required findings and orders, by minute order only and without a court**  
31 **reporter, by accepting written stipulations from counsel when appearances**  
32 **are waived if the stipulations are confirmed on the applicable Judicial**  
33 **Council forms or equivalent local court forms.**  
34

35 **(6) If a court hearing cannot occur either in the courthouse or remotely, the**  
36 **hearing may be continued up to 60 days, except as otherwise specified.**  
37

38 **(A) A dispositional hearing under Welfare and Institutions Code section**  
39 **360 should not be continued more than 6 months after the detention**  
40 **hearing without review of the child's circumstances. In determining**  
41 **exceptional circumstances that justify holding the dispositional hearing**  
42 **more than 6 months after the child was taken into protective custody,**

1 the impact of the state of emergency related to the COVID-19  
2 pandemic must be considered.

3  
4 i. If the dispositional hearing is continued more than 6 months after  
5 the start date of protective custody, a review of the child must be  
6 held at the 6-month date. At the review, the court must determine  
7 the continued necessity for and appropriateness of the placement;  
8 the extent of compliance with the case plan or available services  
9 that have been offered; the extent of progress which has been  
10 made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating  
11 placement; and the projected likely date by which the child may  
12 return home or placed permanently.

13  
14 ii. The court may continue the matter for a full hearing on all  
15 dispositional findings and orders.

16  
17 (B) A judicial determination of reasonable efforts must be made within 12  
18 months of the date a child enters foster care to maintain a child's  
19 federal title IV-E availability. If a permanency hearing is continued  
20 beyond the 12-month date, the court must review the case to determine  
21 if the agency has made reasonable efforts to return the child home or  
22 arrange for the child to be placed permanently. This finding can be  
23 made without prejudice and may be reconsidered at a full hearing.

24  
25 (7) During the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, previously  
26 authorized visitation must continue, but the child welfare agency is to  
27 determine the manner of visitation to ensure that the needs of the family are  
28 met. If the child welfare agency changes the manner of visitation for a child  
29 and a parent or legal guardian in reunification, or for the child and a  
30 sibling(s), or a hearing is pending under Welfare and Institutions Code  
31 section 366.26, the child welfare agency must notify the attorneys for the  
32 children and parents within 5 court days of the change. All changes in  
33 manner of visitation during this time period must be made on a case by case  
34 basis, balance the public health directives and best interest of the child, and  
35 take into consideration whether in-person visitation may continue to be held  
36 safely. Family time is important for child and parent well-being, as well as  
37 for efforts toward reunification. Family time is especially important during  
38 times of crisis. Visitation may only be suspended if a detriment finding is  
39 made in a particular case based on the facts unique to that case. A detriment  
40 finding must not be based solely on the existence of the impact of the state of  
41 emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic or related public health  
42 directives.

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- (1) A hearing on a petition for a child who is in custody under Welfare and Institutions Code section 632 or 636 must be held within the statutory timeframes as modified by an order of the court authorized by Government Code section 68115. The court must determine if it is contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the home, whether reasonable services to prevent removal occurred, and whether to place temporary placement with the probation agency if the court will be keeping the child detained and out of the home.
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- (2) If a child is detained in custody and an in-person appearance is not feasible due to the state of emergency, courts must make reasonable efforts to hold any statutorily required hearing for that case via remote appearance within the required statutory time frame and as modified by an order of the court authorized under Government Code section 68115 for that proceeding. If a remote proceeding is not a feasible option for such a case during the state of emergency, the court may continue the case as provided in (d) for the minimum period of time necessary to hold the proceedings.
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- (3) Without regard to the custodial status of the child, the following hearings should be prioritized during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic:
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- (A) Psychotropic medication applications.
- (B) All emergency medical requests.
- (C) A petition for reentry of a nonminor dependent.
- (D) A hearing on any request for a warrant for a child.
- (E) A probable cause determination for a child who has been detained but has not had a detention hearing within the statutory time limits.
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- (4) Notwithstanding any other law, and except as described in (5), during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court may continue for good cause any hearing for a child not detained in custody who is subject to its juvenile delinquency jurisdiction until a date after the state of emergency has been lifted considering the priority for continued hearings in (d).
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43
- (5) For children placed in foster care under probation supervision, a judicial determination of reasonable efforts must be made within 12 months of the date the child enters foster care to maintain a child's federal title IV-E

1 availability. If a permanency hearing is continued beyond the 12-month date,  
2 the court must nevertheless hold a review to determine if the agency has  
3 made reasonable efforts to return the child home or place the child  
4 permanently. This finding can be made without prejudice and may be  
5 reconsidered at a full hearing.  
6

7 **(c) Proceedings with remote appearances during the state of emergency.**  
8

9 (1) A court may hold any proceeding under this rule via remote technology  
10 consistent with rule 5.531 and emergency rule 3.  
11

12 (2) At the beginning of any hearing conducted with one or more participants  
13 appearing remotely, the court must admonish all the participants that the  
14 proceeding is confidential and of the possible sanctions for violating  
15 confidentiality.  
16

17 (3) The court is responsible for giving notice of remote hearings, except for  
18 notice to a victim, which is the responsibility of the prosecuting attorney or  
19 the probation department. Notice is required for all parties and may include  
20 notice by telephone or other electronic means. The notice must also include  
21 instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.  
22

23 (4) During the state of emergency, the court has broad discretion to take evidence  
24 in the manner most compatible with the remote hearing process, including  
25 but not limited to taking testimony by written declaration. If counsel for a  
26 child or the prosecuting attorney objects to the court's evidentiary  
27 procedures, that is a basis for issuing a continuance under (d).  
28

29 **(d) Continuances of hearings during the state of emergency.**  
30

31 Notwithstanding any other law, the court may for good cause continue any hearing  
32 other than a detention hearing for a child who is detained in custody. In making this  
33 determination, the court must consider the custody status of the child, whether there  
34 are evidentiary issues that are contested, and, if so, the ability for those issues to be  
35 fairly contested via a remote proceeding.  
36

37 **(e) Extension of time limits under Welfare and Institutions Code section 709**  
38

39 In any case in which a child has been found incompetent under Welfare and  
40 Institutions Code section 709 and that child is eligible for remediation services or  
41 has been found to require secure detention, any time limits imposed by section 709  
42 for provision of services or for secure detention are tolled for the period of the state

1 of emergency if the court finds that remediation services could not be provided  
2 because of the state of emergency.

3  
4 **(f) Sunset of rule**

5  
6 This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the  
7 state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or  
8 repealed by the Judicial Council.

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10 **Advisory Committee Comment**

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12 This emergency rule is being adopted in part to ensure that detention hearings for  
13 juveniles in delinquency court must be held in a timely manner to ensure that no child is  
14 detained who does not need to be detained to protect the child or the community. The  
15 statutory scheme for juveniles who come under the jurisdiction of the delinquency court  
16 is focused on the rehabilitation of the child and thus makes detention of a child the  
17 exceptional practice, rather than the rule. Juvenile courts are able to use their broad  
18 discretion under current law to release detained juveniles to protect the health of those  
19 juveniles and the health and safety of the others in detention during the current state of  
20 emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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22  
23 **Emergency rule 8. Emergency orders: temporary restraining or protective orders**

24  
25 **(a) Application**

26  
27 Notwithstanding any other law, this rule applies to any emergency protective order,  
28 temporary restraining order, or criminal protective order that was requested, issued,  
29 or set to expire during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
30 This includes requests and orders issued under Family Code sections 6250 or 6300,  
31 Code of Civil Procedure sections 527.6, 527.8, or 527.85, Penal Code sections  
32 136.2, 18125 or 18150, or Welfare and Institutions Code sections 213.5, 304,  
33 362.4, or 15657.03, and including any of the foregoing orders issued in connection  
34 with an order for modification of a custody or visitation order issued pursuant to a  
35 dissolution, legal separation, nullity, or parentage proceeding under Family Code  
36 section 6221.

37  
38 **(b) Duration of orders**

39  
40 **(1) Any emergency protective order made under Family Code section 6250 that**  
41 **is issued or set to expire during the state of emergency, must remain in effect**  
42 **for up to 30 days from the date of issuance.**  
43

- 1           (2) Any temporary restraining order or gun violence emergency protective order,  
2 issued or set to expire during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19  
3 pandemic, must be continued for a period of time that the court determines is  
4 sufficient to allow for a hearing on the long-term order to occur, for up to 90  
5 days.
- 6
- 7           (3) Any criminal protective order, subject to this rule, set to expire during the  
8 state of emergency, must be automatically extended for a period of 90 days,  
9 or until the matter can be heard, whichever occurs first.
- 10
- 11          (4) Any restraining order or protective order after hearing that is set to expire  
12 during the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic must be  
13 automatically extended for up to 90 days from the date of expiration to enable  
14 a protected party to seek a renewal of the restraining order.

15

16 **(c) Ex parte requests**

17

- 18          (1) Courts must provide a means for the filing of ex parte requests for temporary  
19 restraining orders. Courts may do so by providing a physical location, drop  
20 box, or, if feasible, through electronic means.
- 21
- 22          (2) Any ex parte request may be filed using an electronic signature by a party or  
23 a party's attorney.
- 24

25 **(d) Service of Orders**

26

27 If a respondent appears at a hearing by video, audio, or telephonically, and the  
28 court grants an order, in whole or in part, no further service is required upon the  
29 respondent for enforcement of the order, provided that the court follows the  
30 requirements of Family Code section 6384.

31

32 **(e) Entry of orders into California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System**

33

34 Any orders issued by a court modifying the duration or expiration date of orders  
35 subject to this rule, must be transmitted to the Department of Justice through the  
36 California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), as provided in  
37 Family Code section 6380, without regard to whether they are issued on Judicial  
38 Council forms, or in another format during the state of emergency.

39

40

41 **Emergency rule 9. Toll the statutes of limitations for civil causes of action**

42

1 Notwithstanding any other law, the statutes of limitation for civil causes of action are  
2 tolled from April 6, 2020, until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of  
3 emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted.  
4  
5

6 **Emergency rule 10. Extensions of time in which to bring a civil action to trial**  
7

8 **(a) Extension of five years in which to bring a civil action to trial**  
9

10 Notwithstanding any other law, including Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310,  
11 for all civil actions filed on or before April 6, 2020, the time in which to bring the  
12 action to trial is extended by six months for a total time of five years and six  
13 months.  
14

15 **(b) Extension of three years in which to bring a new trial**  
16

17 Notwithstanding any other law, including Code of Civil Procedure section 583.320,  
18 for all civil actions filed on or before April 6, 2020, if a new trial is granted in the  
19 action, the three years provided in section 583.320 in which the action must again  
20 be brought to trial is extended by six months for a total time of three years and six  
21 months. Nothing in this subdivision requires that an action must again be brought  
22 to trial before expiration of the time prescribed in (a).  
23  
24

25 **Emergency rule 11. Depositions through remote electronic means**  
26

27 **(a) Deponents appearing remotely**  
28

29 Notwithstanding any other law, including Code of Civil Procedure section  
30 2025.310(a) and (b), and rule 3.1010(c) and (d), a party or nonparty deponent, at  
31 their election or the election of the deposing party, is not required to be present  
32 with the deposition officer at the time of the deposition.  
33

34 **(b) Sunset of rule**  
35

36 This rule will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the  
37 state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or  
38 repealed by the Judicial Council.  
39

40 *Appendix I adopted effective April 6, 2020.*