

NOTICE to all litigants and attorneys appearing in Department 7 (and 13) of the Merced Superior Court

Pursuant to Standing Order #2020-12 of the Merced Superior Court the following procedures will be instituted for all matters set for hearing in Department 7/13 of the Merced Superior Court beginning January 19, 2021 and until further notice.

1. Effective January 19, 2021, Department 7 will be open for personal appearance by parties and attorneys for the parties, who have a matter set in that courtroom. Standing Order #2020-12 describes the manner in which parties and their attorneys will be permitted to enter the Courthouse.
2. Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the court will not require parties to appear for short cause matters set in Department 7. The Court, however, will presume that parties set for a hearing in Department 7 will be appearing in person **unless** the party and/or their attorney notify the Court of their intention to appear telephonically in writing at least one court day in advance of their scheduled appearance. Parties and counsel are to use Judicial Council form CIV-020 to provide this written notice. Court Call will not be used for such appearances. Instead, parties and counsel shall be called by the Court at the time scheduled for hearing through Zoom conferencing at the telephone number on file with the Family Law Clerk's office. Parties scheduled for hearing at 8:45 a.m. should be available to receive a call from the Court between 8:45 a.m. and noon for their hearing. Parties scheduled for hearing at 1:30 p.m. should be available to receive a call from the Court between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for their hearing.
3. All CCRC shall continue to be conducted via Zoom audio. Parties will be contacted at the telephone number on file with the Family Law Clerk's office. If your number or address has changed since you last provided information to the Court, please update this information with the Court prior to your mediation. The Clerk's Office will remain open for parties to pick up their CCRC recommendations/rationales or agreements prior to their hearing.
4. The same rules above shall apply to Family Law matters set in Department 13 once the Courthouse in Los Banos is open for personal appearance. All Department 13 matters will remain via Zoom call until Los Banos Courtrooms are open for personal appearance.