

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 June 1, 2020 and until further notice.

1. Effective June 1, 2020, Department 7 will be open for personal appearance by parties and attorneys for the parties, who have a matter set in that courtroom. General 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. The Court in its discretion will be continuing all Settlement Conferences and Court Trials scheduled between June 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020, to a date after August 31, 2020. Parties and/or counsel are encouraged to meet and confer upon an agreed continuance date which is cleared with the Clerk's office and submit a Stipulated Order to continue their matter. Parties may also appear (as outlined above) at the appointed time to continue their hearing/trial with the assistance of the Court.
4. All CCRC shall be conducted by telephone until further notice. Parties will be contacted at the telephone number on file with the Family Law Clerk's office. If your number has changed since you last provided information to the Court, please update this information with the Court prior to your mediation.

5. 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.