

PUBLIC NOTICE

Release Date: December 18, 2020

SAFETY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE DURING COVID-19

SAN BERNARDINO, CA–The San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) continues to follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and state and local public health orders to ensure the safety of all court users, judicial officers and employees while balancing access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic. The court and its judicial officers have an equal responsibility to protect and uphold our system of justice and to ensure our system remains fair and accessible.

Judicial officers, employees, parties on a case, witnesses, attorneys, jurors, contract workers, and vendors, must be healthy, wear a face covering and to the extent feasible, maintain at least six feet of social distance while at any court location. CDC, state, and local public health guidelines recognize that depending on the circumstances, and the nature of the facility, it may not be possible to implement six feet of social distance between persons. SBSC does, however, undertake its best efforts to manage and maintain social distancing at each court location.

SBSC has implemented numerous protocols to ensure the safety of everyone who enters into any court location including, but not limited to:

1. Enforcing face masks & to the extent feasible, requiring court visitors to maintain at least six feet or more of social distance

2. Implementing self-screening for all judicial officers, employees and court users

3. Postposing new jury trials and implementing various safety protocols to ensure all prospective jurors are safe for those trials in progress

4. Promoting remote options to coming to court using CourtCall, dropboxes, window service, fax filings, regular mail, phone services, online services, and DASH (Self-Help resources)

5. Reducing the number of people coming into the building, reducing calendars, and limiting public contact

6. Reducing clerk's office hours from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

7. Providing face masks and hand-sanitizing stations

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 247 West Third Street, 11th Floor San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302 www.sb-court.org

909-708-8747

Michael A. Sachs Presiding Judge

Nancy CS Eberhardt Court Executive Officer 8. Reducing elevator occupancy and increasing cleaning and sanitization of frequently touch surfaces, such as countertops, doorknobs, elevator buttons, etc.

SBSC also maintains regular contact with San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health to ensure all contact tracing and other protocols help mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Furthermore, SBSC continues to support all court users, judicial officers and employees through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the public are encouraged to frequently check SBSC's website (<u>www.sb-court.org</u>), social media accounts (<u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>), and designated COVID-19 page (<u>www.sb-court.org/covid-19</u>) for the latest services available to the public.

The court is not able to comment on active cases before it, however for general questions regarding your case, please contact the respective court district (<u>www.sb-</u> <u>court.org/locations</u>). For media inquiries, contact Julie Van Hook Communication and Public Affairs Officer, <u>courts-pio@sb-court.org</u>