



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Release Date:

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Honorable Russell L. Hom
Presiding Judge

Honorable Jerilyn Borack
Juvenile Court Presiding Judge

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Resumption of Uncontested Adoptions - Sacramento

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Juvenile Dependency Division of the Sacramento Superior Court, led by Juvenile Presiding Judge Jerilyn Borack, is resuming uncontested Adoptions by way of video, effective Monday, June 29, 2020. While court facilities remain closed to physical access by the public, the Juvenile Court has devised a process to allow for the finalization of adoptions without the need for in person appearances.

Adoptive parents, through their social worker, can submit the appropriate Judicial Council forms with a notarized Adoption Agreement to the Court by mail or via the drop box at the Family Relations Courthouse. For those families who do not want a hearing, Judicial Officers will review and sign the Adoption paperwork in chambers and the finalized documents will be sent back to the participants.

For those that request a hearing, the Court will conduct the adoption hearing via Zoom. The appropriate Judicial Council forms with a notarized Adoption Agreement will still need to be submitted to the Court by mail or by using the drop box at the Family Relations Courthouse. The family will then be contacted with a date and time for their adoption hearing to take place remotely. This virtual hearing will allow for the expanded celebration by friends and family who may otherwise not have been able to participate in the hearing. The new model of remote hearings that has been implemented in the Juvenile Court increases access to the Court while promoting the safety of the public, judicial officers and court employees.

Despite the challenges facing the courts in these unprecedented times, the Sacramento Superior Court is committed to ensure access to justice for all children and families in our child welfare system, and ensure that children are able to have the security of permanent families.