



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

NEWS RELEASE

Release date:

April 3, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

Use of Videoconference Technology for Criminal In Custody Matters

The court is pleased to announce the launch of a technology-based solution that allows our court to maintain criminal in custody hearings amidst the temporary court closure orders while still complying with the Governor's and County Health Officer's public health orders. The main goal of this effort is to protect the health and safety of our employees and the public within the framework of protecting the constitutional rights of those who come before the courts. This technological solution to the current COVID-19 crisis permits the court to follow the current local and state health directives to stem the spread of this virus.

This new technological advancement allows criminal hearings to be conducted remotely via video conference with the defendant appearing from the main jail courtroom and the judge and courtroom staff appearing from another courtroom. Counsel may appear in person or remotely via video or telephonically. The court facilities remain closed to the general public; however, all of the proceedings will be live-streamed on the internet to satisfy the requirement of holding public hearings. Additional live-streaming information is available on the court's website at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/criminal/hearing-livestreams.aspx>.

This herculean achievement was accomplished by the strong collaboration between the court and its justice partners including the District Attorney, Public Defender, Conflict Criminal Defender, Sheriff and Probation. Many from all of the agencies have spent tireless hours to address the need to process essential criminal operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Upon the success of this current effort, the court intends to further explore other critical operations and expand the use of technology-based solutions into those areas.