



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**County of Sacramento**

**Public Notice – Juvenile Dependency**  
**Resumption of Contested Hearings and Public Access**  
**Effective Monday, July 20, 2020**

Effective Monday, July 20, 2020, the Juvenile Dependency Division will proceed with contested hearings at the Family Relations Courthouse, 3441 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

**Building Access for In-Person Trial Participants**

In accordance with protocols established by the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, the following criteria are required for all trial participants entering the court facility:

1. Appropriate physical distancing is required at all times.
2. Mandatory temperature screening will be conducted prior to entering the building.
3. Masks are required to be worn by all persons entering a court facility, and must be worn at all times.

Court security will limit public access as follows:

1. Only parents listed on the case;
2. Minor(s) listed on the case. The children's waiting room remains closed, so children not assigned to the case will not be permitted into the building.;
3. All attorneys assigned to the case;
4. Support persons permitted under the laws for domestic violence victims;
5. CASA assigned to the minor(s) on the case;
6. De facto parents and caretakers on the case;
7. Tribal representative, if applicable;
8. Witnesses testifying; and
9. Interpreters, if applicable.

Once screened and cleared for entry, all participants will proceed directly to the trial courtroom, except for witnesses.

Witnesses should be seated on clearly marked and appropriately spaced black chairs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby area and wait until called into the courtroom by the bailiff.

### **Courtroom Access for In-Person Trials**

Locations for the seating will be clearly marked within the courtroom.

Should a participant require the services of an interpreter, one will be present in the courtroom.

During the trial, everyone in the courtroom including court staff is required to wear masks, with the exception of the judicial officer while on the bench, and any witness while on the witness stand. Clear plexiglas has been installed on the bench and witness stand to allow both the judicial officer and any witnesses to safely speak and interact without the need to wear a mask.

At no time will anyone be allowed into the well without specific permission granted by the judicial officer presiding over the trial.

At the conclusion of testimony, witnesses should proceed to the first floor and exit the building without delay.

At the conclusion of the trial, all participants should proceed to the first floor and exit the building without delay.

### **Non-Evidentiary Hearings**

The Court continues to conduct all non-evidentiary matters via remote technology.

#### For parties represented by counsel:

Any party to a Dependency proceeding who is represented by counsel and previously ordered to appear on a matter set for 8:30 a.m., shall make arrangements with counsel to appear by telephone or via the Zoom application. Parties are encouraged to contact their attorney or social worker in advance of the scheduled hearing to obtain the Zoom session ID and password. If any party who is represented by counsel, is unable to participate by telephone or zoom, and is unable to communicate with their attorney in advance of the hearing, that party should be physically present at the courthouse at 3341 Power Inn Road at 8:30 a.m. to receive further instructions.

#### For parties who are not represented by counsel:

All parties who are not represented by counsel and previously ordered to physically appear at a Selection and Implementation Hearing pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.26, should be physically present at the courthouse at 3341 Power Inn Road at 8:30 a.m. to receive further instructions.

#### For all parties:

Failure to follow these procedures may result in the court hearing your matter in your absence.

Failure to follow these procedures in a Jurisdiction and Disposition hearing could result in the court taking jurisdiction over your child and removing them from your home.

Failure to follow these procedures in a Selection and Implementation Hearing could result in the termination of your parental rights.

Please continue to check our website at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/coronavirus.aspx> for further instructions and updates.