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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

MAY 14 2020

V. Magaña

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

GENERAL ORDER 2020-25

RE: FAMILY LAW DIVISION
EMERGENCY REORGANIZATION

In response to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020, and the orders issued by the Health Officer of the County of Riverside related to COVID-19, and in order to manage the complexities in the Family law caseload of the Riverside Superior Court caused by the shutdown of most operations effective March 17, 2020, the Court makes the following Order. This Order is made pursuant to the authority granted by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chair of the Judicial Council of California under California Constitution, article VI, section 6; Executive Order N-38-20; Government Code section 68115; the subsequent orders of Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye dated March 17, 2020, March 20, 2020, March 23, 2020, March 30, 2020, April 1, 2020, and April 24, 2020; the Judicial Council of California Emergency Rules of Court enacted on April 6, 2020, April 17, 2020, and April 20, 2020; and pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.603.

ORDER RE FAMILY LAW DIVISION EMERGENCY REORGANIZATION

1 This Order is applicable to all family law cases, including Domestic Violence Restraining
2 Orders, Department of Child Support Services, contempt proceedings and adoptions. The
3 Court orders as follows:

- 4 1. On April 30, 2020, the Court started accepting stipulations from the Department of
5 Child Support Services (DCSS) on child support matters.
- 6 2. The Court will resume in-person court hearings on Domestic Violence Restraining
7 Orders on May 18, 2020 at the Blythe Courthouse, the Hall of Justice, Southwest
8 Justice Center, and at the Larson Justice Center.
- 9 3. Child Custody Recommending Counselors will start child custody and visitation
10 mediations on May 18, 2020. Mediations appointments will be conducted by
11 videoconference.
- 12 4. Proceedings on Requests for Orders (RFOs) will be heard telephonically starting June
13 8, 2020 at the Blythe Courthouse, the Riverside Family Law Court, the Southwest
14 Justice Center, and the Larson Justice Center.
- 15 5. Parties may stipulate to a judicial officer ruling on a contested matter without a hearing
16 by submitting a Stipulation and Order Re: Ruling on Request for Order Without
17 Hearing. Parties submitting the Stipulation and Order form will receive a written ruling
18 from the judicial officer. Parties may submit the Stipulation and Order form via the
19 eSubmit Document Submission Portal, by mail, or by placement in the drop box.
- 20 6. Except as provided in paragraph 7, effective May 18, 2020, the Court rescinds the
21 declaration of court holidays in General Order No.: 2020-16 as to general family law
22 and DCSS filings. General family law and DCSS documents may be submitted online
23 via the eSubmit Document Submission Portal, by mail, or by placement in the drop
24 box.
- 25 7. Effective June 15, 2020, the Court rescinds the declaration of court holidays in General
Order No.: 2020-16 as to Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights filings.

1 Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights documents may be submitted online via
2 the eSubmit Document Submission Portal, by mail, or by placement in the drop box.

3 8. All court trials currently set, which are not in progress, are hereby vacated and
4 converted to a Trial Readiness Conference. All Mandatory Settlement Conferences
5 and Trial Readiness Conferences will be reset on the Master Calendar with notices
6 sent to counsel and the parties. Any trial in progress will remain as scheduled in the
7 assigned department, unless the court determines good cause to continue the trial to
8 another date.

9 9. At a future date, each courthouse hearing family law cases will have one Temporary
10 Master Calendar Department designated to hear Mandatory Settlement Conferences
11 and Trial Readiness Conferences to address pending trials. The Master Calendar
12 Department will not be ruling on any pre-trial motions.

13 10. In all cases in which the deadline for having discovery completed under Cal. Code of
14 Civ. Proc., §2024.020 has passed, discovery is ordered reopened under Cal. Code of
15 Civ. Proc., §2024.050, with new deadlines established in accordance with the setting
16 of the new trial date.

17 11. The time in which to file a responsive pleading under Cal. Code of Civ. Proc., §585 is
18 hereby extended to 30 calendar days from the termination of the State of Emergency
19 that was declared by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020.

20 12. For any Request for Order, Mandatory Settlement Conference, or Trial Readiness
21 Conference that requires a meet and confer declaration and notwithstanding any prior
22 meet and confer efforts, the parties shall further meet and confer, and describe in a
23 new declaration, the issues in the motion and the impact of the State of Emergency
24 pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 5.98.

25 13. The requirements pursuant to Local Rule 5155 (Child Custody Recommending
Counseling Telephonic Appearances) and Local Rule 5160 (Appearance by

1 Telephone) are temporarily suspended as the court will be conducting hearings and
2 mediations via telephone or video conference.

3 This Order is deemed to be filed in every case affected by this Order. Nothing in this
4 Order shall be construed as prohibiting a trial department from making such orders as the
5 Court deems necessary for case management purposes in any individual case. In the event
6 that this Order conflicts with any other order of this Court, this Order shall control.

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8 IT IS SO ORDERED

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10 Date: 5/14/2020

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JOHN W. VINEYARD
Presiding Judge