

Charles H. Ervin
PRESIDING JUDGE

Yvette Durant
ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE



Ann Mendez
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jason LaChance
COMMISSIONER

Superior Court of California, County of Sierra
100 Courthouse Square, P.O. Box 476, Downieville, CA 95936
Telephone: 530-289-3698 Fax: 530-289-0205
Email: superiorcourt@sierracourt.org

October 4, 2021

*******PUBLIC NOTICE*******

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 the Court hereby gives notice of changes in court operations. The contemplated changes conform with the Governor's executive orders and California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA)'s revised COVID-19 regulations with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). These changes will be in effect until further notice.

Beginning Monday, October 4, 2021, the courtroom shall be open for in-person appearances by parties, counsel, witnesses, victims and observers. The Court will continue to take reasonable safety precautions to keep the public, court staff and judicial officers safe. All persons entering the courtroom will be required to wear an appropriate face covering regardless of vaccination status and follow safety instructions given by the Court.

Current guidance for court operations may be obtained as indicated below.

Criminal Court:

- As of October 4, 2021, and until further notice, all misdemeanor and felony appearances may be accomplished in person, and designated hearing appearances may be permitted via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases. Self-represented litigants may appear in person or via Zoom or telephone. Please visit the Court's website at www.sierra.courts.ca.gov for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone and to obtain the **required password and meeting ID**.
- Any party, party's attorney or witness in a party's case intending to appear via Zoom are requested to notify the Court by email at superiorcourt@sierracourt.org at least 48 hours prior to the court date of the intent to appear via Zoom.
- For further information regarding payment of fines and fees, please visit the Court's website at www.sierra.courts.ca.gov and click on the Online Payments button on the home page.

Civil, Family Law, Probate and case types other than Criminal or Traffic:

- As of October 4, 2021, and until further notice, all Civil, Family Law, Probate and case type appearances other than Criminal or Traffic may be accomplished in person, and designated hearing appearances may be permitted via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases. Self-represented litigants may appear in person or via Zoom or telephone.

Please visit the Court's website at www.sierra.courts.ca.gov for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone and to obtain the **required password** and **meeting ID**

- Any party, party's attorney or witness in a party's case intending to appear via Zoom are requested to notify the Court by email at superiorcourt@sierracourt.org at least 48 hours prior to the court date of the intent to appear via Zoom.

Traffic Court:

- As of October 4, 2021, and until further notice, all traffic hearings may be accomplished in person or via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases. Self-represented litigants may appear in person or via Zoom or telephone. Please visit the Court's website at www.sierra.courts.ca.gov for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone and to obtain the **required password** and **meeting ID**.
- Any party intending to appear via Zoom are requested to notify the Court by email at superiorcourt@sierracourt.org at least 48 hours prior to the court date of the intent to appear via Zoom.
- For further information regarding payments and pending traffic citations, please visit our website at www.sierra.courts.ca.gov and click on the Traffic Tickets button on the home page.
- Traffic Trials and Motions: Any party, party's attorney or witness in a party's case intending to appear via Zoom, must have BOTH video and audio enabled and functioning for any appearance being accomplished via Zoom. Any party, attorney and /or witness who does not have functional Zoom conference capability must appear in person unless prior authorization to appear by telephone is approved by the Court.

Jury trials: Jury trials may be heard but will be limited to critically necessary criminal and civil trials in accordance with COVID-19 protocols and priorities determined by the Court.

Court Clerk's Offices:

Court staff is available by phone and email during normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Court Clerk's Office Public Counter is open to the public during normal business hours of: 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Filings are also being accepted by mail, overnight delivery service or email at superiorcourt@sierracourt.org. Filings by mail or overnight delivery service will require a self-addressed stamped envelope if endorsed copies are desired. All filings will be filed on the date received, if received by 4:00 p.m. Any endorsed copies will be returned within two (2) business days. Any temporary emergency order issued by a judge will be emailed to the requesting party.

Self-Help:

- Assistance is available for self-represented litigants. Please contact Self-Help Attorney and Family Law Facilitator, Ingrid Larson at (530) 289-3654 or by email at cingridlarson@gmail.com.
- Additional online resources are available at www.sharpcourts.org or www.courts.ca.gov.

Strict adherence to all public health mandates is required for anyone who is in the courthouse. Anyone who plans to enter the courthouse should visit the Court's website for further guidance regarding policies and procedures and verify all up-to-date directives which may be found at the state's official website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>. If you have any further questions, please email the court at superiorcourt@sierracourt.org or call the clerk's office at (530) 289-3698.