

SEP 18 2020

ANN MENDEZ
CLERK OF THE COURT



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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SIERRA**

In Re Requirement of Face Covering)	Executive Order No. 2020-01
In Response to COVID-19 PANDEMIC)	Effective September 18, 2020
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Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the absence of a cure, treatment, or effective vaccine for this highly contagious virus, social distancing, face coverings and good hygiene are the only tools available to slow or prevent the spread. The Court must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of court clients, employees, judicial officers, litigants, attorney's, witnesses and law enforcement officers, the Court **HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) All persons, two years of age and older, who gain access to the interior of the courthouse via the remote front doorbell process or by order of the Court must wear an

1 acceptable face covering in all public areas of the Court and in workspaces shared by
2 the Court with other Sierra County offices. Acceptable face covering is defined as: a
3 multi-layer disposable surgical mask; N95/KN95 mask; multi-layer homemade mask
4 constructed to comply with CDC guidelines ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-
5 ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html)); or a substantially
6 similar face covering in the sole discretion of the Court. Unacceptable face coverings
7 include, but may not necessarily be limited to: shirts raised over the nose; masks made of
8 yarn, lace, or similar fabrics; scarves; bandanas; and neck gaiters. If there are doubts as to
9 the adequacy of a face covering, court staff will provide an individual with an
10 acceptable face covering. Acceptable face coverings must cover the individual's nose
11 and mouth and be secured under the chin at all times unless specifically directed
12 otherwise in accordance with Section 4 of this Executive Order.

13 2) Any person without an acceptable face covering may be denied entry into the courthouse,
14 courtroom, or spaces shared by the Court with other Sierra County offices. Any person
15 who discontinues using an acceptable face covering while in these areas may be directed
16 to leave the courthouse. In the latter event, the Court may continue that person's matter
17 to a future date in the sole discretion of the Court.

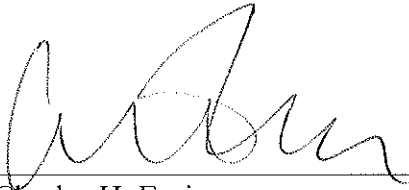
18 3) Persons who are unable or unwilling to wear an acceptable face covering while inside
19 the courthouse may submit their contact information to the Court's Americans with
20 Disability Act ("ADA") Coordinator or the Court Executive Officer in order to
21 seek a potential accommodation. Persons who believe they are unable to wear an
22 acceptable face covering, as defined in paragraph 1 above, because of a medical
23 condition or a legally- recognized disability under the ADA, and who wish to have an
24 accommodation (including an accommodation to wear any sort of face covering other
25 than an acceptable face covering as defined), must submit a written request for
26 accommodation on form MC-410 to the Court's ADA Coordinator. Accommodations
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1 will be considered pursuant to California Rule of Court 1.100 on a case-by-case basis.
2 Requests for accommodation should be submitted at least five (5) court days in advance
3 of the time for the court visit to ensure timely consideration.

- 4 4) Judicial officers have discretion in their individual courtrooms to allow persons,
5 including themselves, to remove their face coverings for limited periods of time, to the
6 extent doing so is deemed reasonable and necessary to conduct the proceeding
7 appropriately.
- 8 5) Absent an approved accommodation or sufficient authorization, any person who refuses
9 to wear an acceptable face covering after being directed to do so by a judicial officer,
10 court employee, or law enforcement officer, may be removed from the courthouse for
11 failure to comply with this Order.

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13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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15 Dated: September 18, 2020

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18 Charles H. Ervin,
19 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
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