

F I L E D
Clerk of the Superior Court

DEC 27 2023

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**IN RE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIDEO
COURT FOR DEPARTMENT OF CHILD
SUPPORT SERVICES COURT
PROCEEDINGS**

**GENERAL ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING DEPARTMENT**

ORDER NO. 010124-25

THIS COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

This order has been developed to allow the establishment of video court proceedings between courtrooms contained within the courthouse facilities of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego ("San Diego Superior Court"), in order to ensure greater access to centralized court proceedings and to ensure the safe, secure, orderly, and efficient handling of proceedings and court business by members of the public who may only have access to remote courthouses within the County of San Diego. The use of video court is in line with the Judicial Council of California's Court Technology Governance and Strategic Plan, which directs the California Judicial Branch courts to utilize technology to better serve the public by providing greater access to court proceedings, especially to those members of the public that are self-represented. This order is consistent with California Rules of Court, rule 10.603, which vests in the Presiding Judge the responsibility of establishing policies and providing a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes.

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Based upon the above, the court will allow Department of Child Support Services cases filed in the North County Division to be linked via video to a judicial officer physically located in the Central Division courthouse. The litigants, witnesses, and/or their attorneys shall appear for their case in the designated courtroom of the North County Division and, if the judicial officer hearing the proceeding is physically located in the Central Division, their appearance will be via video link to the judicial officer. The court clerk will be located in the same physical location as the judicial officer and, by extension, is considered to be present, for all purposes, during the court proceedings as required by Government Code section 69841. All parties, witnesses, attorneys, court staff, and the judicial officer are deemed to be present in the same courtroom, as a matter of law, and the litigants are deemed to be appearing before the judicial officer when they make their appearance in the North County Division courtroom.

This order shall become effective on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 31, 2024, unless otherwise ordered by this court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 27, 2023



HONORABLE MICHAEL T. SMYTH
PRESIDING JUDGE