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By: A. HUSTED, Deputy

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

IN RE: 60-DAY ACCELERATED RELEASE  
OF SENTENCED COUNTY JAIL INMATES  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING DEPARTMENT

ORDER NO. 110520-100

Due to the life-threatening COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of California has declared a state of emergency in this state. The President of the United States has also declared a national emergency. Based on the pandemic, the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encourage vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces. The San Diego County jails are clearly places at high risk during this pandemic because they require the housing of individuals in close quarters.

On March 20, 2020, the Chief Justice of California issued an advisory recommending steps superior courts could take to mitigate the spread of the virus. Courts were “strongly encourage[d]” to “[w]ith the assistance of justice partners, identify those persons currently in county jail or juvenile hall custody who have less than 60 days remaining on their jail sentence

1 for the purpose of modifying their sentences to permit early release of such persons with or  
2 without supervision or to community-based organizations for treatment.”

3 Finally, since late March 2020, the California Department of Corrections and  
4 Rehabilitation has severely restricted, and for some periods entirely suspended, the intake of  
5 inmates into the state prison. Thus, some inmates who have been sentenced to state prison  
6 remain in the county jails indefinitely.


7 Based on the above, there is an immediate and continuing need to protect the health and  
8 safety of the jail population and staff, by reducing the jail population, in order to help prevent the  
9 spread of the coronavirus. To accomplish this goal, and in accord with the Chief Justice’s  
10 advisory of March 20, 2020, this court hereby authorizes the San Diego County Sheriff’s  
11 Department to accelerate the release of sentenced county jail inmates up to 60 days from when  
12 they would otherwise be released, except that no inmate may receive the benefit of early release  
13 pursuant to both this order and Penal Code § 4024.1.

14 In addition to any other notice required by law, the Sheriff’s Department shall, no later  
15 than 24 hours prior to the release of any inmate pursuant to this order, notify the San Diego  
16 District Attorney, the San Diego City Attorney, and the San Diego Office of the Public Defender.  
17 The Sheriff shall insure that notification procedures made pursuant to VINE reflect the  
18 accelerated release dates.

19 This Order is effective November 9, 2020, through December 9, 2020, inclusive.

20  
21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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23 DATED: November 5, 2020

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26 HON. LORNA A. ALKSNE  
27 PRESIDING JUDGE  
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