

JUL 28 2020

By: A. HUSTED, Deputy

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**IN RE: SUSPENSION OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY, LOCAL RULES, RULE 2.5.8, FOR (1) LIMITED CIVIL HEARINGS IN DEPARTMENTS N-26 AND D-61 ONLY; (2) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES AND INFORMAL DISCOVERY CONFERENCES IN ALL CIVIL CASE TYPES**

**GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING DEPARTMENT**

**ORDER NO. 072820-77**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of California declared a state of emergency in this state. The President of the United States has also declared a national emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant health and safety concerns nationally, throughout the State of California, and in San Diego County.

In response to the pandemic, the court was closed to the public and suspended services, except for certain time-sensitive and essential functions, from March 17 to May 22, 2020. (See General Orders of the Presiding Department, Ord. Nos. 031820-34, 040320-39, and 043020-47.) The court resumed most services on May 26, 2020; however, with community spread of COVID-19 still a concern, many services have been and will continue to be provided remotely.

For good cause and pursuant to California Rules of Court, Appendix I: Emergency Rules Related to COVID-19, rule 3; the court's inherent supervisory and administrative authority; and the Presiding Judge's duty to promote access to justice for all members of the public, taking into account the needs of the public and court as they relate to the efficient and effective management

1 of the court (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603), and in order to protect the health and safety of the  
2 public, court personnel, judicial officers, parties, attorneys, witnesses, and law enforcement  
3 officers, this court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 4 1. Until further notice, the Superior Court of San Diego County, Local Rules, rule 2.5.8  
5 is suspended for limited civil hearings in departments N-26, which is located in the  
6 North County Regional Center, 325 S. Melrose Dr., Vista, California 92081, and D-61,  
7 which is located in the Hall of Justice, 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101,  
8 only. All parties are directed to review the COVID-19 page on the court's website  
9 ([www.sdcourt.ca.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/coronavirus)) for the process by which remote appearances will  
10 be conducted for limited civil hearings in departments N-26 and D-61. Until further  
11 notice, the Superior Court of San Diego County, Local Rules, rule 2.5.8 remains in  
12 effect and applicable to all limited civil hearings assigned to all departments other than  
13 N-26 or D-61.
- 14 2. Until further notice, the Superior Court of San Diego County, Local Rules, rule 2.5.8  
15 is suspended for settlement conferences and informal discovery conferences in all civil  
16 case types. At the time of scheduling, parties will be informed how they are to appear  
17 for the applicable conference.

18 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND MAY BE AMENDED AS**  
19 **CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

20  
21 DATED: July 28, 2020



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22 **HON. LORNA A. ALKSNE**  
23 **PRESIDING JUDGE**