

By Sara Eklund  
Deputy Clerk

1 THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
2 FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
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4 GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING  
5 JUDGE IN RE: PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING,  
6 RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING General order no. GO-2026-001  
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9 The purpose of this General Order is to protect all persons with business in the  
10 courthouses and court facilities of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara; to  
11 ensure the safe, secure, and orderly conduct of hearings, trials, and other court proceedings;  
12 facilitate the safe, secure, and efficient handling of court business; and to ensure the right to  
13 public access without undue interference or delay.  
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15 This General Order is made pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 10.603, which  
16 vests in the Presiding Judge the authority to establish court policies, and rule 1.150, which  
17 governs media coverage within the courthouse and court facilities.  
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20 WHEREFORE, it is ordered:

21 I. DEFINITIONS

22 A. For the purpose of this General Order, the term, "Court" refers to the Superior Court  
23 of California, County of Santa Barbara.

24 B. "Media" or "media agency" and "media coverage" are defined pursuant to California  
25 Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

26 1. "Media" and "media agency" shall mean any person or organization engaging  
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1 in news gathering or reporting and includes any newspaper, radio, or television  
2 station or network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house publication,  
3 professional journal, or other news-reporting or news-gathering agency.

4 2. "Media coverage" shall mean any photographing, recording, or broadcasting  
5 of court proceedings by the media using television, radio, photographic, or  
6 recording equipment.

7 C. "Courthouse" shall mean any building containing at least one (1) courtroom. It shall  
8 also mean that portion of a multi-purpose commercial or private building that  
9 contains at least one (1) courtroom.

10 D. "Court facility" shall mean any building, or that portion of a multi-purpose  
11 commercial or private building, where official court business is conducted.

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13 II. PROHIBITIONS

14 A. Absent prior written authorization of the Presiding Judge or their designee, there  
15 shall be no photographing, recording, or broadcasting by the media, attorneys,  
16 parties, or members of the public within any of its courthouses and/or court facilities,  
17 including but not limited to courtrooms, jury assembly rooms, entrances and exits,  
18 lobby areas, hallways, stairs, elevators, and business offices except:

19 1. Media and media agencies as permitted within a courtroom by a judicial officer  
20 pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and those areas that may be  
21 specifically designated by the Court as media areas.

22 2. This order is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, or broadcast  
23 from outside of any courthouse or court facility, provided such activity does not  
24 obstruct access to or from the courthouse or court facility.

25 3. This order is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, or broadcast  
26 from the hallways of the Anacapa Historic Courthouse by touring members of the  
27 public as long as the photography, filming and broadcasting does not capture any  
28 persons involved in a court proceeding, jurors, judicial officers, and court employees.

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- B. Videotaping, photography, and electronic recording devices must not be activated while they are transported within any courthouse, court facility, or courtroom.
- C. Videotaping, photography, and electronic recording of the interior of any courthouse, court facility, or courtroom through the windows or doors of any courthouse, court facility, or courtroom is prohibited.
- D. Jurors may not be videotaped, photographed, or electronically recorded within a courthouse, court facility, or courtroom at any time. Videotaping, photography, and electronic recording of any consenting juror may only take place outside of the courthouse, court facility, and courtroom unless otherwise permitted by court order.
- E. Videotaping, photography, and electronic recording of any consenting spectator or other member of the public, except as permitted in II A 3 of this order, may only take place outside of the courthouse, court facility, and courtroom unless otherwise permitted by court order.
- F. Judicial officers of the Superior Court of California for the County of Santa Barbara may not be videotaped, photographed, or electronically recorded within a courthouse, court facility, or courtroom without a court order.
- G. Employees of the Superior Court of California for the County of Santa Barbara may not be videotaped, photographed, or electronically recorded within a courthouse, court facility, or courtroom.
- H. Cell phones or other camera-enabled devices and devices that capture digital images, such as watches, PDAs, tablets, iPads, and iPods, may be brought into a courthouse, court facility, or courtroom, as long as the image capturing features are not activated, used, or displayed without the prior written authorization of the Court.

1 III. EXCEPTIONS

2 A. This General Order is not intended to interfere with or restrict the rights of the media  
3 to request permission from a judicial officer to allow media coverage within a  
4 particular courtroom, nor to interfere with the authority of each judicial officer to rule  
5 on requests pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

6 B. Requests for any other exception to this General Order must be submitted to the  
7 Court Executive Officer for the consideration of the Presiding Judge or their  
8 designee. All such requests shall be made in writing and shall include a statement of  
9 facts in support of the request.

10 C. Requests to photograph or film unoccupied or unused courtrooms, jury rooms, or  
11 employee work areas must be submitted to the Court Executive Officer. All such  
12 requests shall be made in writing and shall include a statement of facts in support of  
13 the request.

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16 IV. SEVERABILITY

17 Should any provision of this General Order be held invalid, the validity of the other  
18 provisions of this General Order shall not be affected.

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21 V. NOTICE

22 It is ordered that this General Order shall be posted at each public entrance to a  
23 courthouse and on the Court's webpage. The Sheriff of Santa Barbara County and their  
24 deputies are directed to serve a copy of this General Order on any person or organization  
25 who appears to be in violation thereof, to advise the person or organization of the apparent  
26 violation, and to immediately notify Court Executive Officer and Presiding Judge to  
27 determine what, if any, action should be taken to address the apparent violation of court  
28 order.

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VI. PENALTIES

- A. A violation of this General Order may be the basis for an Order terminating further media coverage; a citation for contempt; confiscation of recording equipment, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets or other camera-enabled devices, and other devices that capture digital images; and/or an order imposing monetary or other sanctions.
- B. A violation of this General Order may also result in imprisonment in the county jail for up to six months, or by a fine of up to \$1,000, or by both, pursuant to Penal Code section 166(a)(4).

DATE: 3/4/2026

  
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HON. PATRICIA L. KELLY  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court