

1 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

3
4 AMENDED GENERAL ORDER RE: COURT ACCESS
5

6 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease
7 Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of California have recognized that the world,
8 country, and state face a life threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

9 WHEREAS, in response to the spread of COVID- 19, Governor Gavin Newsom on
10 March 4, 2020, declared a state of emergency in California, which was followed on March 13,
11 2020, by a national emergency. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order
12 N-33-20, requiring all Californians to stay home, subject to certain limited exemptions. Courts
13 are included in this exemption. On June 18, 2020 Governor Newsom mandated that face
14 coverings be worn state-wide.

15 WHEREAS, Public Health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of
16 Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent
17 social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable
18 individuals to avoid public gatherings and spaces and the Governor has ordered that everyone
19 wear facial coverings. The continuous operation of our courts is essential for our constitutional
20 form of government, for providing due process and protecting the public.

21 WHEREAS, as of July 22, 2020, Santa Barbara County has had 4272 positive tests for
22 COVID-19 resulting in 32 deaths. There have been two judicial officers who have tested
23 positive for COVID-19. This week a staff member was confirmed positive for COVID-19 and
24 other staff have been directed to confer with their medical provider and quarantine. Several
25 housing units in the Santa Barbara County Jail are under quarantine in an effort to reduce the
26 spread of COVID-19 in the jail.

27 WHEREAS, the courts are clearly places with high risks during this pandemic because
28 they require gatherings of judicial officers, court staff, litigants, attorneys, witnesses, defendants,

1 law enforcement, and juries in excess of the numbers allowed for gathering under current
2 executive and health orders.

3 THEREFORE, access to all Santa Barbara County courthouses and court facilities
4 remains restricted at all times to judges, commissioners, court staff, county staff, Judicial
5 Council staff, vendors, and authorized persons, which includes but is not limited to news
6 reporters and news media representatives.

7 THEREFORE, access to all court proceedings, including, but not limited to,
8 arraignments, preliminary hearings, restraining orders or ex parte matters, remains limited to,
9 parties, attorneys, witnesses, family members or authorized persons, which includes, but is not
10 limited to, news reporters and news media representatives.

11 THEREFORE, all persons permitted to enter Santa Barbara County court facilities
12 pursuant to this order must abide by social distancing. Social distancing means maintaining a
13 minimum of physical distance of 6 feet of space from others. Each person must provide their
14 own approved mask and wear it at all times in all areas of the court facilities. Masks must fully
15 cover the mouth and nose at all times.

16 THEREFORE, all persons permitted to enter Santa Barbara County courthouses pursuant
17 to this order must submit to a temperature screening, by the least intrusive means as possible,
18 prior to entering these locations.

19 THEREFORE, no individual shall enter Santa Barbara County courthouses pursuant to
20 this order, if a temperature screening of the individual is 100.4° F or greater.

21 The Court and individual judicial officers reserve the authority to limit the number of
22 persons who may be present within any courtroom or other court space, as reasonably necessary
23 to maintain the safety of the Court or courtroom.

24 THIS AMENDED ORDER IS EFFECTIVE JULY 23, 2020 at 5:00 P.M UNTIL
25 FURTHER ORDER OF THIS COURT.

26
27 Dated: July 23, 2020

28 
Michael J. Carrozzo, Presiding Judge