

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GENERAL ORDER No. 78

IN RE: Update on Court Proceedings and Operations
following State of California Reopening

WHEREAS, effective June 15, 2021, the State of California reopened its economy with limited restrictions;

WHEREAS, the Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California continue to balance the various interests implicated by the ongoing national COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California have determined that the Court may allow in-person public access to hearings and may continue to hold some hearings remotely via telephone or videoconference as permitted and as appropriate;

NOW THEREFORE, the United States District Court, Northern District of California, hereby ORDERS that General Order No. 72-6 (IN RE: Coronavirus Disease Public Health Emergency); General Order No. 73 (Continuing Temporary Restrictions on Courthouse Access due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency); and General Order No. 75 (Temporary Suspension of Rules Regarding Personal Service by the United States Marshals Service During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency) are **abrogated**, effective July 1, 2021.

The Court additionally ORDERS as follows, effective July 1, 2021:

Courthouse Access:

1. All courthouse visitors must follow any safety protocols announced on the Court's website at cand.uscourts.gov and in each judge's courtroom.
2. Courtroom capacity may be limited as determined by the assigned judge. Press and public access to in-courtroom proceedings may be in person, by telephone, by videoconference, or by other remote means, as permitted and as determined by the assigned judge.

Civil Cases:

1. Trials may proceed in accordance with the logistical considerations necessitated by the Court's safety protocols.
2. Each judge will determine whether to hold a hearing or decide a civil matter on the papers. Hearings may be held in person in the courtroom, by telephone, or by videoconference. This applies to motion hearings, case management conferences, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences, and Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") proceedings. For specific instructions on telephone or video appearances, see the docket on PACER, the assigned judge's schedule of

upcoming proceedings (located on each judge's web page at cand.uscourts.gov/judges), or the [ADR webpage](#).

Criminal Cases:

1. Trials may proceed in accordance with the logistical considerations necessitated by the Court's safety protocols.
2. Initial appearances and other proceedings before the magistrate judges will be conducted by telephone or by videoconference until further order of the Court. New arrestees shall be booked at Santa Rita Jail and produced for court appearances the following day instead of being presented for booking at the U.S. Marshals Service lockup.
3. Other court appearances may be waived or postponed, or may be conducted by telephone or videoconference, as authorized. See [General Order 74](#) for procedures pursuant to the CARES Act.

Other:

1. All local rules requiring that a courtesy copy be provided to the chambers of the assigned judge remain suspended until further notice. No chambers copy or "courtesy copy" of an electronically-filed document shall be submitted to the court, unless required by a standing order of the assigned judge or requested by the assigned judge in a particular case.
2. The requirement under Civil Local Rule 5-1(b) that a pro se party must request permission from the assigned judge to use the court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system remains suspended until further notice.

ADOPTED: June 23, 2021

FOR THE COURT:



Richard Seeborg
Chief Judge