

SUPEEIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING

REMOTE APPEARANCE FEES

(Gov. Code §68115)

GENERAL ORDER 2021-023

CR-21-999999

On October 12, 2021, in General Order 2021-019, the Stanislaus County Superior Court ("Court") ordered as follows:

- 1. Beginning Oct-ber 18, 2021, the Court will suspend the fee to remotely appear using VCourt, the Court's remote appearance platform; and
- 2. The Court will review the need to mandate remote appearances as a result of the COVID-19 pardemic within the next sixty (60) days; and
- 3. The suspension of the remote appearance fee will expire on December 17, 2021 unless earlier rescinded, extended or otherwise modified.

The basis for the Court's October 12, 2021 order was stated as follows:

"On April 6, 2029, the Judicial Council of California approved Emergency Rule of Court 3 – "use of technology for remote appearances" – which provides, at Rule 3(a)(1) that "courts may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely." Rule 3(a)(3) also provides that "conducting proceedings remotely includes, but is not limited to, the use of ... telephonic means for remote appearances" Emergency Rule 3 remains in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until it is amenced or repealed by the Judicial Council."

Emergency Rule 3, in its current form, remains in effect until January 1, 2022.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and based on the authority granted to it in Emergency Rule 3, the Court has reviewed the need to mandate remote appearances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

 The Court will continue to suspend the fee to remotely appear using VCourt, the Court's remote appearance platform, through December 31, 2021.
 IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 15, 2021



ROBERT B. WESTBROOK, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT