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**FILED**

DEC 10 2020

Clerk of Superior Court of California,  
County of Sonoma  
By *M. Leveley*  
Deputy Clerk

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**COUNTY OF SONOMA**

**ORDER**

**Order of the Presiding Judge RE: First Appearances by Remote Technology  
and Domestic Violence Calendar Changes**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to health and safety concerns resulting in substantial operational impediments of the Sonoma County Superior Court (the Court), and new statewide health orders issued by the California Department of Health on December 3, 2020, indicating that “The State, like the nation, continues to record an unprecedented surge in the level of community spread of COVID-19”, I order as follows:

1. Beginning December 14, 2020, any person in custody at the Sonoma County Jail who makes a first appearance in any matter, including by not limited to a first appearance in a new case, or first appearance for an alleged violation of probation, shall make the appearance by remote technology only.
2. Beginning December 21, 2020, all domestic violence matters shall be set in the Court’s alpha-split departments from first appearance through resolution by dismissal, plea or verdict, after which, if sentencing is required, the case will be transferred to the Domestic Violence Court (DV Court) for sentencing. If a sentence is imposed the case shall remain in DV Court for all proceedings thereafter including matters involving violation or modification of DV Court probation.
3. These orders shall remain in effect until further order of the presiding judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: Dec. 10, 2020

*Bradford J. Demeo*  
BRADFORD J. DEMEO  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
SONOMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT