

1 HONORABLE BRADFORD J. DEMEO  
2 PRESIDING JUDGE  
3 SONOMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
4 600 Administration Drive  
5 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**FILED**

JUN 26 2020

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

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
9 COUNTY OF SONOMA

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11 IN RE: FURTHER COURT ORDERS AND  
12 CLARIFICATION OF RULES OF ENTRY  
13 FOR SONOMA COUNTY COURTHOUSES

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15 In light of the most recent order from the Governor of the State of California for all  
16 persons to wear a mask or cloth facial covering in buildings where business is conducted, the  
17 following is to clarify and reiterate the rules of entry for all Sonoma County Superior  
18 Courthouses and Courtrooms:

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20 1. All persons must wear a cloth facial covering or mask upon entry to and at all times in a  
21 Sonoma County courthouse and courtroom. Upon request a judicial officer may grant  
22 permission to temporarily remove the facial covering or mask for no longer than  
23 necessary to accomplish or complete a task that requires removal. Masks and facial  
24 coverings may not be removed for any purpose anywhere else in the building. Plastic  
25 face shields do not qualify as a facial covering or mask for purposes of these rules.  
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27 2. All persons shall maintain no less than 6 feet social distancing from any other person  
28 while in a Sonoma County courthouse. A judicial officer may grant permission upon  
request of a lawyer to approach a client, witness or court personnel temporarily and for  
no longer than necessary to complete the task requested.

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3. If a witness stand is equipped with clear synthetic barriers on three sides between the witness, court reporter, Judicial officer and jury, the judicial officer may permit removal of the mask for facial covering on a witness temporarily while testifying. However, the witness must wear the mask or facial covering at all times when not sitting in the witness stand.
  4. A judicial officer may permit a prospective juror to remove a facial covering or mask temporarily to accomplish proper voir dire of the juror, but must also make certain that no other person in the area of the juror is put at any increased risk to health. This may require distancing the prospective juror at a distance of more than 6 feet from other prospective jurors during the voir dire of that juror.
  5. All Sonoma County Superior Court judicial officers shall have the authority to determine whether or not a person has a valid exemption from wearing a facial covering or mask in the courtroom and may exercise their discretion to recognize the exemption so long as it complies with all requirements, conditions and orders of the Governor of the State of California and the Sonoma County Health Officer.
  6. No person may enter a courtroom without permission of designated court personnel who will first verify that courtroom capacities adjusted during the COVID-19 pandemic are not exceeded by the entry of additional persons into the courtroom.
  7. Attorneys will be given an "Attorney Pass" after a wellness check conducted by court personnel for the sole purpose of advancing to the front of the weapon screening queue. Attorneys must still comply with item 6 hereinabove at all times.

It is so ORDERED.

Dated: June 26, 2020

  
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BRADFORD J. DEMEO  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
SONOMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT