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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 5, 2020

PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE ORDERS MANDATORY USE OF A FACE COVERING/MASK IN ALL LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES AND COURTROOMS

**ANYONE REFUSING TO WEAR A MASK/FACE COVERING MAY BE DENIED SERVICES,
ASKED TO LEAVE OR ESCORTED OUT BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES**

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile today signed a General Order mandating facial coverings and social distancing requirements in all 38 Superior Court of Los Angeles County courthouses and courtrooms.

"The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it serves," Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile said. "The Court has taken extensive measures to reduce the number of persons coming to its courthouses, including limiting the matters to be heard on any given day, spreading out the scheduling of cases, directing prospective jurors to courtrooms instead of jury assembly rooms, facilitating remote telephonic/video court transactions with the virtual Clerk's Office, online and remote Self-Help services, remote mediations, teleworking employees, encouraging counsel and litigants to appear remotely, and implementing scheduled appointments for in-person transactions at the courthouse."

The Order allows individuals whose disabilities preclude them from wearing a mask to seek an exemption as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court. Requests for an exemption to the Order may be directed to the ADA liaison at each courthouse. A list of liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx.

Under the Order:

-MORE-

GENERAL ORDER

2-2-2-2

- All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face covering/mask over his or her nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face coverings shall also include face shields that cover both the nose and the mouth. Children under the age of (3) three are exempt from the Order.
- To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters involving individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled when fewer people are present to reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- Individuals who remove their masks or face coverings after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.
- Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or courtroom by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department personnel.
- Individuals are required to maintain at least (6) six feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within their household) at all times and comply with social distancing signage throughout the courthouse.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand-washing hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

The Order, which is attached, is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Judicial officers and employees also are required to wear masks or facial coverings in all courthouses, courtrooms and public spaces unless they have a medical exemption. The Court has provided judicial officers and employees with two cloth face coverings for their use. Paper masks also will be available for the public at security screening areas at courthouse entrances.

Mandatory use of a face covering/mask is part of the Court's *Here For You | Safe For You* plan to provide a safe courthouse environment while offering services that allow court business to be conducted remotely. Whether appearing by phone, from home, the office or coming to the courthouse, the Court provides safe, efficient options to access justice. The Court's remote technology options promote social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person.

Information on *Here For You | Safe For You* can be found [here](#) and Twitter page ([@LASuperiorCourt](#)).

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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

JUN 05 2020

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By *Rizalinda Mina*, Deputy
Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE RE MANDATORY
FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN
EFFECT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, national, state and local elected officials declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions. Executive orders and orders from public health authorities required individuals to remain in their homes (Safer at Home Orders) to slow and reduce the transmission of this novel coronavirus.

On March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) declared a local and public health emergency in response to the increased spread of the novel coronavirus across the County of Los Angeles.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti both issued, respectively, Stay at Home and Safer at Home orders.

On March 21, 2020, Public Health issued a revised Safer at Home Order for the Control of Covid-19 that prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings and events. The order also requires businesses, except those defined as an Essential Business, to cease in-person operations and close to the public. The order requires individuals to maintain a physical separation from others of at least six (6) feet and advises persons 65 years of age and over and persons with underlying

1 health conditions to avoid person-to-person contact.

2 On May 29, 2020, Public Health issued a revised order regarding Reopening Safer at Work
3 and in the Community for Control of Covid-19. Among other things, it provides, “People leaving
4 their residences must strictly comply with the Social (Physical) Distancing requirements stated in
5 this Order and specified in guidance or protocols established by the County Department of Public
6 Health; this includes wearing a cloth face covering whenever there is or can be contact with others
7 who are non-household members in both public and private places, which reduces the risk of
8 transmission to others from people who do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected.
9 The use of face coverings is commonly referred to as “source control.”” County of Los Angeles
10 Public Health Department Order of the Health Officer, May 29, 2020, p. 2, paragraph 3b.

11 The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it
12 serves. In the absence of a cure, treatment, or effective vaccine for the highly contagious novel
13 coronavirus, social distancing, face coverings and good hygiene are the only tools available to slow
14 or prevent its spread. The Court has taken extensive measures to reduce the number of persons
15 coming to its courthouses, including limiting the matters to be heard on any given day, spreading the
16 scheduling of cases, directing prospective jurors to courtrooms instead of jury assembly rooms,
17 facilitating remote telephonic/video court transactions with the virtual Clerk’s Office, online and
18 remote Self-Help services, remote mediations, teleworking employees, encouraging counsel and
19 litigants to appear remotely, and implementing scheduled appointments for in-person transactions at
20 the courthouse.

21 To prevent or slow the spread of Covid-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant
22 to Code Civ. Proc. § 128; Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent
23 powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 65 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with state and local
24 public health guidelines, **THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 25 1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face covering/mask over his
26 or her nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face
27 coverings may include a mask, scarf, or any other fabric that covers both the mouth and
28

1 nose. Face coverings shall also include face shields that cover both the nose and mouth.

2 Children under the age of three (3) are exempt from the order.

- 3 2. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this order as a reasonable
4 accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100 of the
5 California Rules of Court, please contact the ADA liaison at your courthouse. A list of
6 ADA liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx. To reduce the risk of
7 contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled
8 when fewer people are present to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.
- 9 3. Individuals who decline or refuse to wear a mask or face covering will be denied entry to
10 the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 11 4. Individuals who remove their masks or face covering after entering the courthouse or
12 courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may
13 have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or
14 courtroom immediately. Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the
15 courthouse and/or courtroom by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department personnel.
- 16 5. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your
17 household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.
- 18 6. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and
19 cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

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21 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT**
22 **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

23
24
25 Dated: June 5, 2020



26 *Kevin C. Brazile*
27 KEVIN C. BRAZILE
28 Presiding Judge