



AB-716 Court access. (2021-2022)

As Amends the Law Today

SECTION 1. *The heading of Article 1 (commencing with Section 124) of Chapter 6 of Title 1 of Part 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure is repealed.*

SEC. 2. *The heading of Article 1 (commencing with Section 124) is added to Chapter 6 of Title 1 of Part 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to read:*

Article 1. Open Court Access

SEC. 3. Section 124 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

124. (a) Except as provided in Section 214 of the Family Code or any other ~~provision of~~ law, the sittings of every court shall be public.

(b) (1) The term "public" shall include remote access by a member of the public or the media.

(2) The court shall not exclude the public or the media from physical access because remote access is available, unless it is necessary to restrict or limit physical access to protect the health or safety of court employees or the public.

(3) "Media" means any person or organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and includes any newspaper, radio or television station or network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house publication, professional journal, or other news-reporting or news-gathering agency.

(4) "Remote access" includes an audio stream on the internet or a telephone to hear court proceedings.