



**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS**

Hugh K. Swift
Court Executive Officer
Jury Commissioner

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November 30, 2020

Court Issues Order Limiting Access to Modesto Courthouse

EFFECTIVE December 1, 2020, public access to Modesto Main Courthouse is restricted to authorized persons only and measures to enforce social distancing in courthouse hallways and courtrooms will be strictly enforced as coronavirus cases and hospitalizations surge in Stanislaus County.

Under General Order 2020-023, public access to courthouses is limited to, parties, attorneys, summoned jurors, subpoenaed witnesses, court security personnel, court employees, law enforcement appearing in court as part of their official duties, individuals filing documents or requesting assistance from the clerk's office, one (1) support person pursuant to Family Code section 6303, approved vendors, contractors and delivery persons, and any other individuals who have been permitted by Court order.

In an effort to meet its statutory duties and also safeguard the well-being of the public it serves, on June 22, 2020, the Stanislaus Superior Court adopted an emergency rule of court, which required all persons entering any courthouse in the county to wear a face covering. The Court based the rule on a guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health, which required face coverings to be worn in buildings open to the public.

Despite this local rule and updated statewide guidance, which requires face coverings in public, attorneys, litigants, and others routinely remove their masks, wear their masks improperly, and/or fail to observe social distancing while in courthouses. Non-compliance with the basic protective measures that this Court has repeatedly required may increase COVID-19 infections.

In the interest of enforcing social distancing and to reduce the number of people in courthouses, effective Tuesday, December 1, 2020, members of the public, not otherwise referenced above, who wish to attend a court proceeding may do so upon advance request and at the discretion of the judicial officer presiding over the matter.

Instructions on how to make such a request are available on the Court's website at <https://www.stanct.org/request-attend-court-hearing>.

This General Order 2020-023 only applies to the Modesto Main Courthouse, located at 800 11th Street, and the adjoining Family Law Clerk's Office located at 1100 I Street.