

Superior Court of California County of Marin

COURT ADMINISTRATION



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April 23, 2020

Public Notice and Announcement

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to enforce social distancing, Marin County Superior Court is committed to adapting to current conditions while continuing to provide public access to all court proceedings. In these unprecedented times, the court must also weigh the privacy concerns and legal rights of defendants, victims of crime, witnesses, family members, and advocates.

As part of this balancing effort, the court continues to explore ways to increase public access to court proceedings that do not involve bringing more individuals into the courthouse so as to protect the public health and safety of all. Presently, all criminal proceedings are being conducted by remote video hearing. Additionally, the court is working on efforts to provide video hearings in other case types such as civil and family law.

In order to provide public access to these video hearings, the court has allowed, and will continue to allow members of the public to attend the remote proceedings. To this end, a limited number of people each day will be permitted to attend the video hearings. This limit is based upon the limitations of the court's infrastructure and is subject to change as our infrastructure is updated. The request to attend hearings must be made the court day before the proceeding by no later than 12:00 PM. Requests will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. If a request is granted, that person will receive an email prior to 5:00 PM (on the same day of the request) with the video conference access instructions. The court will start accepting email requests to attend video proceedings on Monday, April 27th. To send a request to attend a criminal proceeding, please send an email to: AttendanceRequest@marin.courts.ca.gov

Persons granted remote access to proceedings are reminded of the general prohibition against photographing, recording, and rebroadcasting of court proceedings (including those held by telephone or videoconference). See Local Rule 8.6 and 8.7 as well as California Rule of Court 1.150. Any recording of a court proceeding held by video or teleconference, including "screen-shots" or other visual copying of a hearing, is absolutely prohibited. Violation of these prohibitions may result in sanctions, including removal of court-issued media credentials, restricted entry to future video hearings, denial of entry to future video hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary by the court. Members of the press and the public are also expected to mute their phones during telephonic hearings, dress appropriately, conduct oneself as if the participant were physically present in court, make no statements in any form including, but not limited to, the use of signs, posters, backgrounds, or any visual aids, and to not disrupt proceedings in any manner.