

March 16, 2020

For Immediate Release

San Mateo County Superior Court Issues Emergency Orders to Temporarily Suspend all Trials, and Reduce Regular Court Services

Today State Supreme Court Chief Justice, Tani Cantil-Sakauye, issued an Emergency Order enabling the San Mateo County Superior Court to implement extraordinary measures to mitigate the effects of the rapidly spreading COVID-19 pandemic and reduce the potential for public exposure to the virus in its court facilities. Pursuant to that Order, Presiding Judge Jonathan E. Karesh ordered that all trials be suspended for up to 30 days and the time limits on conducting preliminary hearings be continued from 10 court days to 15 court days. In addition, the Presiding Judge ordered the following matters be continued or rescheduled:

- All Civil and Small Claims matters;
- All Criminal matters unless the defendant has invoked his Constitutional right to a speedy trial or speedy preliminary hearing;
- All Traffic matters;
- Nearly all Family Law and Probate hearings.

With few exceptions, the Court will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Tuesday, April 7, 2020, Suspension of trials and all traffic matters will take effect immediately. All other changes will take effect Wednesday March 18, 2020.

Litigants who have misdemeanor arraignments or misdemeanor pre-trial conferences, Family Law, Probate, Civil, Small Claims, or Traffic hearings scheduled between Monday, March 16, 2020 and April 15, 2020 will be notified by mail of their new court date. The Court's actions are in response to the rapidly escalating Novel Coronavirus pandemic, for which the Federal Government, State Government and the County of San Mateo have declared states of emergency.

For further information, please contact Neal Taniguchi, Court Executive Officer at 650-261-5016.

###