

BY Hinojosa, Ana
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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN

**IN RE: PUBLIC ACCESS TO
COURTROOMS**

MISCELLANEOUS NO.: STO-24-0013

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

This order is issued under the authority of California Rules of Court rule 10.603(a)(1), which authorizes the presiding judge to establish policies and allocate resources in a manner which “promotes access to justice for all members of the public, provides a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, maximizes the use of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603(a)(1).)

For the misdemeanor arraignment calendar, the Court’s policy established in April 2023 regarding the doors remaining open should be consistently followed by court, county, and sheriff’s department personnel. Once the doors to the courtroom hearing the misdemeanor arraignment calendar are opened to allow out-of-custody defendants to enter, the doors are to remain open to allow the public to view the

1 proceedings inside the courtroom. Even though the presiding judicial officer may not
2 take the bench immediately, proceedings are still occurring that the public can view
3 (e.g., advisal of rights video prior to the misdemeanor arraignment calendar, etc.).

4 After all defendants present first enter the courtroom and are directed to sit,
5 available seats may be occupied by members of the public. Once opened, courtroom
6 doors are to remain unlocked until the misdemeanor calendar concludes for that
7 session.

8 If, for health and safety or security reasons, this policy cannot be followed on a
9 particular day or session, the sheriff deputies shall notify the presiding judicial officer,
10 who may in the exercise of their discretion enter the reasons for this in the record.

11 Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 575.1, California Rules of Court,
12 rule 10.613, and Government Code section 68070, et seq., the Court intends to
13 prepare a proposed local rule that further adopts the policy established in April 2023
14 and this standing order. The Court anticipates consideration and adoption of the local
15 rule by July 1, 2025.

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17 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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19 Dated: December 5, 2024.



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21 J. Eric Bradshaw, Presiding Judge
22 Kern County Superior Court
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