

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

SANTA CRUZ BRANCH
701 Ocean Street, Room 120
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



WATSONVILLE BRANCH
1 Second Street, Room 300
Watsonville, CA 95076

EMERGENCY LOCAL RULES OF COURT

Emergency Local Rule 1 – Remote Appearances:

Pursuant to California Judicial Council Emergency Rule 3, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/appendix-i.pdf>, this Court will proceed with conducting Remote Appearances via Zoom (Remote Appearance Application). This Emergency Rule is intended to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Appearance information for each department may be found at <https://www.santacruzcourt.org/content/remote-appearance-0>. Public access for specific subject matters will be live-streamed. Information is available at <https://www.santacruzcourt.org/content/remote-appearance>. There is no cost to appear remotely via Zoom.

Emergency Local Rule 1.1.01 – Appearances in Non-Criminal (Civil, Family, Restraining Orders, Probate, LPS, Appeals and Juvenile Dependency Departments):

- a) Remote video appearances are mandatory for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judge.
- b) Self-represented litigants, witnesses and other participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.
- e) Documentary evidence shall be submitted electronically no later than seven calendar days before a trial or hearing. Details regarding evidence submission for each department will be posted on the Court's remote appearance web page.

Emergency Local Rule 1.1.02 – Appearances in Criminal Departments:

The Court authorizes the use of remote appearance for *pretrial* proceedings in criminal cases in accordance with the requirements of Judicial Council Emergency Rule 3 and other applicable laws covering the use or involvement of remote appearance. The following details also apply:

- a) Remote appearances are voluntary for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judge.
- b) Defendants and other participants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person unless otherwise directed by the Court or their attorney.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) When electing to appear remotely, attorneys must appear by video unless otherwise permitted by the Court to appear by audio-only in advance of the

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proceeding. Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.

- e) Attorneys must appear in person for any proceeding where they intend to present evidence to the Court unless otherwise directed by the Court in advance of the proceeding.

Emergency Local Rule 1.1.03 – Appearances in Traffic and Minor Violation Departments:

The Court authorizes the use of remote appearance for *arraignment* proceedings in Traffic and minor violation cases according to the following details:

- a) Remote appearances are mandatory for attorneys unless otherwise directed by the judicial officer.
- b) Self-represented litigants are strongly encouraged to appear remotely but may appear in person unless otherwise directed by the judicial officer.
- c) No prior authorization is required to appear remotely.
- d) When electing to appear remotely, litigants are strongly encouraged to appear by video. Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.

Emergency Local Rule 1.1.04 – Appearances in Juvenile Justice

- a) Remote video appearances are mandatory for all participants unless otherwise directed by the Court.
- b) Audio only appearances are an option only if a party has no access to a device with video capabilities.
- c) Attorneys must appear in person for any proceeding where they intend to present evidence to the Court unless otherwise directed by the Court in advance of the proceeding.