FILED
TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
VISALIA DIVISION

MAR 25 2020

STEPHANIE CAMERON, CLEAR

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TULARE

GENERAL ORDER RESTRICTING COURTHOUSE ENTRY AND PERMITTING ACCESS TO ONLY THOSE PERSONS REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN PERSON AT ANY TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE

GENERAL ORDER

NO. 20-03

Because of the COVID-19 epidemic resulting in Governors Newsom's Declaration of a State of Emergency; the Tulare County Board of Supervisors declaring a public health emergency, President Donald Trump declaring an emergency over the outbreak, the directive from those government officials to ensure and facilitate personal distancing, the need to protect the health and safety of the public and court personnel, and exercising the authority granted under government code §68115 pursuant to the March 17, 2020 ("Order") of the Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chair of the Judicial Council of California, issued in response to the March 16, 2020 request for an emergency order made by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Tulare County ("Court"). The Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued an order directing all Californians to shelter in place at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors to protect public health and ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all and prioritizing those at the highest risk and vulnerability.
 - 2. Essential functions of the Superior Court at this time are limited to

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proceedings that are required to comply with defendants' constitutional rights, protect the health and safety of parties and address jail population concerns.

- 3. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19 threat has resulted or is expected to result in significant interference with Superior Court services and proceedings.
- 4. Although the federal Constitution generally precludes closure of substantive courtroom proceedings in criminal cases and California's Code of Civil Procedure section 124 generally precludes closure of substantive courtroom proceedings in civil proceedings, the current COVID-19 crisis resulting in shelter in place orders clearly demonstrates an overriding interest supporting restricting courthouse entry and permitting access to only those persons who are required to appear in person in any Tulare County courthouse. Public health and s a fety would be prejudiced absent such a restriction, which is narrowly tailored to permit only those required to enter the County's courthouses; there is no less restrictive means of achieving this overriding interest. (NBC Subsidiary (KNBC-TV), Inc. v. Superior Court (1999) 20 Cal.4th 1178, 1181-1182.)
- 5. For any court proceedings occurring while this emergency order is in effect, any judge of the court may permit press coverage of proceedings in accordance with California Rules of Court Rule 1.150.
- 6. It is therefore ordered that access to any and all courthouses is restricted to those persons required to appear in person for a court hearing. This will generally include and be limited to parties, their attorneys and witnesses subpoenaed to testify. No other persons will be permitted entry without good cause.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Dated March 25, 2020



Presiding Judge Brett A. Alldredge



Superior Court of the State of California

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Mike Marquez, Chief - Woodlake Police Department

Jason Salazar, Chief - Visalia Police Department

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Susan Rodriguez – CDCR Department of Adult Parole

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Tulare County Bar Association