

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF LASSEN**



**LOCAL RULES OF COURT**  
**Effective January 1, 2026**

**LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT**  
**Hall of Justice**  
**2610 Riverside Drive**  
**Susanville, CA 96130**  
**(530) 251-8205**

**This is a complete set of rules superseding all previous local rules.**

**In addition to these local rules, Lassen Superior Court enforces all applicable state statutes and the California Rules of Court.**

Notice: A full set of the local rules may be purchased at the Hall of Justice or downloaded online at [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

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## **RULE OF COURT NO. 1**

### **LAW AND MOTION DEPARTMENT RULES**

#### **A. DATES FOR LAW AND MOTION HEARINGS.**

Annually by October 1, each department of the Superior Court shall publish a schedule for the succeeding year's law and motion hearing dates by posting on the court's website, [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov). Paper copies are available at the court filing office; standard copy fees apply.

#### **B. DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS.**

Counsel or a self-represented litigant may select a date for hearing any proposed matter, in compliance with the statutory procedure applicable thereto, and set the matter in the appropriate department of the court as follows:

##### **(1) In Department 1**

- (a)** Misdemeanor Criminal Law and Motion matters and Disposition Conferences;
- (b)** Felony Criminal matters, other than those in which arise upon a crime alleged to have been committed by an inmate in the custody of the Department of Corrections, including: Felony Criminal Arraignments, Preliminary Hearings, Felony Information, Disposition Conferences, Noticed Motion Hearings, and Jury Trials;
- (c)** Petition to Declare a Minor a Ward of the Court;
- (d)** Department 2 disqualification matters.

##### **(2) In Department 2**

- (a)** Traffic & Misdemeanor Criminal Arraignments, Traffic & Criminal Law & Motion, and Misdemeanor Noticed Motion Hearings;
- (b)** In Custody Arraignments and Afternoon Clear Warrants;
  - (i)** In Custody Arraignments are to be heard on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00 PM and Fridays at 1:00PM. If these days fall on a holiday, the In Custody Arraignments will be heard on the next court day at 4:00 PM. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 AM are reserved for In Custody Arraignments that were not heard on a

Monday, Wednesday, or Friday due to time restraints in filing of the Complaints.

- (c)** Court Trials under the Traffic Code;
- (d)** Small Claims;
- (e)** Unlawful Detainer;
- (f)** Civil Action with a prayer exceeding Thirty-five Thousand Dollars, (\$35,000) or otherwise is a case not described in Code of Civil Procedure § 86;
- (g)** Civil Action with a prayer of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) or less, or otherwise is a case described in Code of Civil Procedure section 86;
- (h)** Actions under the Probate Code;
- (i)** Actions under the Family Code;
- (j)** Juvenile Dependency and Juvenile Traffic matters;
- (k)** Petition for Writ of Prohibition, or Mandamus;
- (l)** All Actions for Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders;
- (m)** Adoptions;
- (n)** Civil Harassment Petitions;
- (o)** All *ex parte* applications in any case described in items (a) through (m) above. All *ex parte* applications shall comply with California Rules of Court 3.1200 et seq. and shall include LSC-FL-120, *Declaration Regarding Ex Parte Notice*;
- (p)** Department 1 disqualification matters.

**(3) In Department 3**

- (a)** Upon assignment by the Temporary Assigned Judges Program, any proceeding that has been assigned to a visiting judge for all purposes, as directed by that judge;

**(b)** Upon assignment by the Temporary Assigned Judges Program, any proceeding that has been assigned to a visiting judge for all purposes due to a disqualification or recusal.

**(4) In Department 5**

**(a)** Criminal case involving an allegation of a crime committed by an inmate in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

**(b)** Writs of Habeas Corpus.

**(5) In Department 6**

**(a)** Civil Case Management Conferences and Settlement Conferences.

**(6) In Department 7**

**(a)** Actions under the Family Code wherein issues of child or spousal support or health insurance maintenance are brought by the Department of Child Support Services;

**C. COURTROOM DECORUM AND ATTIRE.**

Counsel and self-represented litigants shall observe customary professional courtesy and decorum in presentations to the bench, including standing when addressing argument to the bench, addressing the judicial officer as “Your Honor” or “Judge”, being respectful and courteous to attorneys, court staff, law enforcement officials and litigants.

Court proceedings may include a court reporter. It is imperative that the court record is precise. Unless you are a party to the action and it is your turn to speak, silence is required. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones must be turned OFF or SILENT.

The following attire and items are considered inappropriate in the courtroom and are not allowed while court is in session. Individuals not adhering to this rule will not be allowed to enter the courtroom.

- Sunglasses, hats, bandanas, or other non-religious head coverings
- See-through/sheer clothing of any kind or clothing revealing midriffs or under clothing
- Shorts, cut-offs, costumes, face-paint
- Clothing with emblems or depictions of violence, profanity, drugs, sexual acts, or that are disrespectful to the judicial process
- Bare feet

- Recording devices or electronic equipment of any kind without prior permission from the court
- Food, drinks, gum, tobacco

All counsel shall comply with Business and Professions Code § 6068(b) and with respect thereto follow a dress code at all scheduled appearances as follows:

**(1)** All counsel shall wear appropriate business attire which may include tie, suit, or sport coat and slacks, and footwear.

**D. SHORT AND LONG CAUSE HEARINGS.**

Any matter coming on a law and motion calendar that will, in the opinion of either counsel or self-represented litigants, require more than ten minutes to be heard will be heard as a setting for a long-cause hearing. Counsel or self-represented litigants shall notify the court and opposing parties in writing at the time of filing his or her pleadings that the hearing will necessitate more than ten minutes for hearing, and request a long-cause setting. Such matters shall be called on the regular law and motion calendar for the sole purpose of setting at that time a date and time for the long-cause hearing. Upon stipulation of all counsel and self-represented litigants that a long-cause hearing be set, the parties may forego the setting appearance and instead supply the court in writing with available dates for the long-cause hearing.

**E. TIME LIMITS ON PRELIMINARY HEARINGS.**

Any preliminary hearing that will, in the opinion of either counsel or self-represented defendants, require more than 30 minutes to be heard will be heard as a setting for a long-cause hearing.

**F. FILING OF NOTICES OF UNAVAILABILITY.**

The court may accept for filing a “Notice of Unavailability of Counsel”; however, such notice is not binding on the court and shall have no effect as it relates to the court’s calendar. If the court does accept the “Notice of Unavailability of Counsel”, such notice must be filed in each case by court case number in which case the notice is expected to apply.

**G. CIVIL MOTION PROCEDURE.**

The California Rules of Court and provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure relating to law and motion matters will strictly be observed. Evidence at a law and motion hearing shall be by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury (Rule 3.1306.) The time for filing a motion, response, and reply will be observed (CCP §1005(b): 16 court days; 9 court days; and 5 court days), and the clerk shall mark any late-filed document with an appropriate stamp so indicating. The court will consider on a case specific basis whether

to refuse to consider a late-filed paper, and imposition of sanctions for any party disobeying this requirement without good cause.

**H. EXHIBITS AS ATTACHMENTS TO DOCUMENTS.**

Exhibits presented to the court as attachments to documents require an exhibit divider with a cover sheet behind the divider stating the exhibit number and the title of the document the exhibit is attached to. All exhibits submitted to the court by parties must reflect the correct designation of parties such as Plaintiff/Petitioner/People exhibits are numbered designations, Defendant/Respondent/Cross Defendant exhibits are alphabetical designations.

**I. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.**

The services of an official court reporter are normally available in the Felony and Juvenile departments only. An official court reporter is not normally available in the Civil, Misdemeanor, and Traffic departments. Pursuant to Government Code section 69957 and California Rules of Court, rule 2.952, in limited civil actions and criminal misdemeanor and infraction proceedings, the court, at its sole discretion, may utilize electronic recording as a means of generating a verbatim record of proceedings. In those instances, court reporters will not be provided.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, the court does not provide court reporters for hearings in the following matters:

- (a)** All civil case management conferences
- (b)** All civil settlement conferences
- (c)** All civil ex parte application hearings
- (d)** All hearings regarding Unlawful Detainers, Name Changes, or Small Claims
- (e)** All infraction hearings

In accordance with Government Code section 68086 and California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, when a party requests a court reporter and the reporter is not required by the forgoing statute to report the court proceedings, the matter will proceed as scheduled without reporting services. On the condition it does not cause a continuation of the proceedings, a party has the right to arrange, at the party's own expense, the services of a court reporter if the services of an official court reporter are not available for a proceeding (*Local Rule of Court No. 16*). The court does not facilitate the attendance of private reporters.

Unless otherwise required by statute, the parties shall be responsible for transcript costs pursuant to Government Code section 69953.

The court may electronically record any hearing or proceeding for its internal use. Any such recording shall not constitute an official record of the proceeding that was recorded.

**J. FAMILY LAW SUPPORT CALCULATIONS.**

All parties shall submit with any motion, response, or reply pertaining to support issues, a support calculation prepared on software approved by Judicial Council.

**K. FAMILY LAW ORDERS TO SHOW CAUSE RE CONTEMPT.**

In family law cases in which there is filed an Order to Show Cause re Contempt on child support issues and both parties are unrepresented by counsel, the court will not appoint counsel to represent the party charged with contempt. Further, the parties are hereby advised that in all such proceedings the parties will be given a fair opportunity to present and dispute relevant information and that inability to pay support is a defense to the contempt charge.

**L. FAMILY-CENTERED CASE RESOLUTION PROCESS.**

- (1) AUTHORITY.** This rule is intended to implement a family-centered case resolution process in conformance with Family Code sections 2450, 2451, and California Rules of Court, rule 5.83.
- (2) APPLICABILITY.** This rule applies to all dissolution, legal separation, nullity, parentage, child custody and support, and grandparent cases filed after January 1, 2013.

**(3) STATUS CONFERENCE.**

- (a)** The court will issue a Notice of Status Conference and calendar the conference within 180 days after the filing of the petition.
- (b)** The purpose of the status conference is to assess the case early and assist the litigants with creating a case management plan for resolution of all of the issues presented in their cases. The design of the case management plan will depend on the complexity of the case.
- (c)** On request of either party or on the court's own motion, the court may set any matter for a status conference.

**(4) ATTENDANCE AT STATUS CONFERENCE.**

- (a)** All parties must attend the initial status conference. If the Department of Child Support Services is a party to the case, their appearance is not required.

- (b)** Attorneys and self-represented parties shall attend each subsequent status conference unless excused in advance by the court, the case has been dismissed or a judgment resolving all issues has been entered.

**(5) RECONCILIATION.**

Parties who file a stipulation prior to the status conference indicating they are attempting reconciliation will be exempt from the settlement conference for six (6) months. If a judgment or dismissal is not filed within six (6) months of filing of the petition, the court will proceed with a status conference upon notice to the parties.

**(6) PRE-STATUS CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

- (a)** In dissolution and legal separation cases each party shall serve the other with a Preliminary Declaration of Disclosure no later than ninety (90) days following the service of the Petition for Dissolution or Legal Separation. The Preliminary Declaration of Disclosure shall include a completed Income and Expense Declaration, a completed Schedule of Assets and Debts, and any other information that is required pursuant to Family Code section 2104. This does not apply to summary dissolution matters as outlined in Family Code section 2400.
- (b)** A *Family Law Case Management: Status Conference Statement* (LSC-FL-100) shall be filed and served on all other parties at least five (5) calendar days before each case status conference.

**(7) STATUS CONFERENCE AND COURT'S ROLE.**

- (a)** At the status conference, the judicial officer will review the case to determine whether it is progressing towards disposition in a timely and effective manner in accordance with the milestones, disposition standards, and additional factors set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.83. The judicial officer may take action authorized by rule 5.83, including but not limited to setting additional status conferences, setting a family-centered case resolution conference, or scheduling the case for further review without appearances by the parties.
- (b) Counsel must inform the court of the following matters:**
  - (i)** The attendance of both parties at Family Court Services mediation;
  - (ii)** The service by both parties of a complete Preliminary Declaration of Disclosure;
  - (iii)** The filing with the court of a Declaration Regarding Service of Declaration of Disclosure and Income and Expense Declaration;

- (iv) The readiness of the parties to participate in mediation;
- (v) The appropriateness of referral to arbitration;
- (vi) The willingness of the parties to limit, schedule, or expedite discovery, including the willingness to provide the opposing party, without a discovery request: (a) the name, address, and telephone number of each individual likely to have desirable information that supports the party's disclosures, and (b) a copy of, or a description by category and location of, all documents, data compilations, and tangible things that are in the possession, custody or control of the party and that supports the party's disclosures;
- (vii) The appropriateness of implementation of a family-centered case resolution plan pursuant to Family Code section 2451; and
- (viii) The willingness of the parties to stipulate to the appointment of court experts, and allocate the expert's expense, or to schedule a hearing for the appointment and expense allocation of court experts.

**(c) At any status conference the court may:**

- (i) Schedule disclosure of expert witnesses, by stipulation;
- (ii) Inquire whether issues can be narrowed by stipulation and set dates for the filing of stipulations;
- (iii) Set dates for further status conferences, as needed, and no less often than every six months;
- (iv) Set dates for other events that must take place before the next status conference;
- (v) Set the date for trial and/or settlement conferences; and
- (vi) Take such other action, as permitted by law, which could promote the just and efficient disposition of the case.

**M. FAMILY LAW TRIAL SETTINGS.**

**(1)** The party who has filed the At-Issue Memorandum shall serve and file at least thirty (30) days prior to the first trial setting conference all of the following:

A completed Income and Expense Declaration, a current Property Declaration, one for community property and one for separate property, if any, and a completed *Family Law Case Management: Settlement Conference Statement* (LSC-FL-101).

**(2)** If paragraph (1) is not fully complied with, the court will not set a date for trial at the trial setting conference.

**(3)** The party not filing the At-Issue Memorandum shall serve and file at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first trial setting conference all of the following:

A completed Income and Expense Declaration, a current Property Declaration, one for community property and one for separate property, if any, and a completed *Family Law Case Management: Status Conference Statement* (LSC-FL-100), or *Family Law Case Management: Settlement Conference Statement* (LSC-FL-101).

- (4)** If the party not filing the At-Issue Memorandum fails to serve and file the documents as required in paragraph (3), that party shall have been deemed to have admitted all the relevant facts as set forth in the party filing the At-Issue Memorandum documents as required in paragraph (1).
- (5)** The parties shall comply with Family Code section 2105 pertaining to final declarations of disclosure or mutual waiver as stated therein. The parties shall be prepared at the first trial setting conference to state whether a final declaration of disclosure will be mutually waived.
- (6)** The court may order the parties to update all or some of the documents listed in paragraph (1) and/or paragraph (3) where substantial time has elapsed between the filing of the documents and the trial date.
- (7)** Following the trial and the court's decision on outstanding issues, the court will designate one of the parties to prepare the final judgment within ten (10) days of the decision of the court and submit the same for filing.
- (8)** In circumstances where a Family Law or Restraining Order case is being heard by a Commissioner of the Court under direction of the Presiding Judge, the Court will require the stipulation of parties for said Commissioner to act as temporary judge, in accordance with Article 6, Section 21 of the Constitution of the State of California. This consent is to be obtained via the filing by all parties of the case, form *LSC-FL-200, Consent for Court Assignment (Family Law)* on the Court.

**N.** A Final Judgment and a Notice of Entry of Judgment shall be submitted with all Marital Settlement Agreements, all Marital Termination Agreements, and all requests for default judgments. If a Final judgment and a Notice of Entry of Judgment is not submitted with the documents listed above, those documents will not be accepted by the court.

**O. TIME FOR FILING MOTIONS (CRIMINAL) .**

Except for motions to be heard at a felony preliminary examination, and unless otherwise ordered or specifically provided by law, all moving papers in criminal cases shall include a Memorandum of Points and Authorities and shall be served and filed at least ten (10) court days before the time appointed for hearing. All papers opposing the motion shall be filed and served at least five (5) court days before the time appointed for hearing, and all reply papers shall be filed and served at least two (2) court days before the time appointed for hearing. Proof of Service of the moving papers shall be filed no later than five (5)

court days before the time appointed for hearing. An original and one copy of all papers are to be filed with the court.

Except on motions brought pursuant to the provisions of Penal Code section 1538.5 and set for hearing at a felony preliminary examination, a party who has not timely served and filed written opposition to a motion will not be permitted oral argument, absent a court order.

Section Q of this rule provides the filing time requirements for motions brought at the preliminary examination pursuant to Penal Code section 1538.5.

**P. MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES (CRIMINAL).**

A Memorandum of Points and Authorities must include a statement of the case and/or a statement of facts setting forth any procedural or factual matters relevant to the issues presented with page reference to any transcript, declaration, or other document to be relied upon at the hearing. The memorandum must clearly specify the precise factual and legal issues raised in the motion and the specific legal authority relied upon for the motion. Absence of a Memorandum of Points and Authorities shall be deemed by the court as an abandonment of the motion. No issues, factual or legal, other than those set forth in the Memorandum of Points and Authorities will be considered in ruling on the motion unless it is established the new issues were not reasonably discoverable before the motion was filed.

In addition to the above requirements, Defendants shall attach a copy of the current Complaint, Information, or Indictment to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities supporting any Demurrer, Motion to Dismiss, or Motion to Strike. In addition, Demurrs and Motions to Strike shall specify in the notice whether the Defendant seeks to dismiss or strike the entire Complaint, Information, or Indictment. If Defendant does not seek to dismiss or strike the entire Complaint, Information, or Indictment, Defendant shall set forth in the Notice of Motion the counts, enhancements, allegations, special circumstances, or other aspects of the Complaint, Information, or Indictment Defendant seeks to dismiss or strike.

**Q. MOTIONS UNDER SECTION 1538.5 OF THE PENAL CODE.**

**(1) Time for filing.** A motion brought pursuant to section 1538.5 of the Penal Code may be made at the preliminary examination only if at least five (5) court days before the date set for the preliminary examination, the defendant has filed and personally served on the people a written motion accompanied by a Memorandum of Points and Authorities as required by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Penal Code section 1538.5. At the preliminary examination, the magistrate may grant the Defendant a continuance for the purpose of filing the motion and serving the motion upon the People, at least five (5) court days before resumption of the examination, upon a showing that the Defendant or his or her attorney of record

was not aware of the evidence or was not aware of the grounds for suppression before the preliminary examination. Any written response by the People to the motion shall be filed with the court and personally served on the Defendant or his or her attorney of record at least two (2) court days prior to the hearing at which the motion is to be made. Proofs of Service must be filed by the date of the preliminary examination. Motions not filed for consideration at a preliminary hearing must comply with section O of this rule.

- (2) **List of items to be suppressed or returned.** The moving party shall include a complete itemized list of the specific items of property or other matters sought to be suppressed or returned. A general request to suppress or return “all evidence seized,” without greater specificity, is not sufficient and shall be deemed an abandonment of the motion. Only the items listed in the motion will be considered by the court for suppression or return unless it is established the newly identified item could not reasonably be identified before the motion was filed.
- (3) **Specification of factual and legal basis for motion.** The moving party’s Memorandum of Points and Authorities shall comply with the first paragraph of section P of this rule and shall identify the specific legal and factual basis for claiming the search or seizure to be defective.
- (4) **Copy of Search Warrant, Affidavit, and Inventory.** If relevant to the motion, legible copies of the Search Warrant, Affidavit in support of the warrant, and Return and Inventory shall be appended to the moving papers.
- (5) Failure to comply with the provisions of Penal Code section 1538.5(a)(2), or any portion of this rule may constitute cause for denial of the motion.

When any party is unwilling to stipulate to the transcript of the preliminary examination or grand jury hearing being received into evidence (supplemented by other testimony and argument of counsel, as needed), that fact shall be stated on the first page of the Notice of Motion or Response. Failure to so indicate shall be deemed a stipulation to the admission of the transcript into evidence.

If the motion is based wholly or in part on the preliminary hearing, the moving party’s Memorandum of Points and Authorities shall specify what factual findings and legal conclusions were made by the magistrate.

## **R. DISCOVERY MOTIONS (CRIMINAL).**

Upon a showing that the moving party has complied with the informal discovery procedure under section 1054 et seq. of the Penal Code, the court may make any order necessary to enforce the provisions outlined in section 1054 et seq. of the Penal Code. No motion will be accepted for filing or set for hearing unless there is attached to the moving papers a declaration by counsel, under penalty of perjury, setting forth the previous oral and written efforts to obtain the discovery by cooperative and informal means, and

showing how the opposing party has not complied with section 1054.1 or 1054.3 of the Penal Code. A discovery motion shall be limited to the actual disputed items or class of items listed in the declaration.

**S. TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNSEL TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT 5 (PRISON) DEFENDANTS.**

In order to ensure effective assistance of counsel, the court directs all attorneys who are appointed in Department 5 (Prison) cases to make best efforts to meet with their clients no less than two (2) days prior to any hearing subsequent to the initial arraignment hearing. Any request for an exception to this rule shall be made to the judge scheduled to preside at the hearing.

**T. MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS.**

- (1)** All ex parte applications shall comply with California Rules of Court 3.1200 et seq., with notice to parties by 10:00 a.m. on the day prior to the scheduled hearing date and shall include LSC-FL-120, *Declaration Regarding Ex Parte Notice*.
- (2)** Any party intending to abandon a motion already filed shall immediately notify the court and opposing counsel.

**U. TRIAL READINESS – CRIMINAL.**

**The trial readiness conference in criminal matters shall be subject to the following requirements:**

- Trial Readiness Conferences in all departments are to be set no later than 14 days prior to the Jury Trial date.
- Before or during the Trial Readiness Conference, when declaring ready for trial, all parties shall represent to the Court that all discovery has been properly provided to all opposing counsel, all substantive motions have been presented and heard by the Court, subpoenas have been served on all potential witnesses, and the matter is ready to proceed to trial.
- Motions in limine shall be prepared for the Trial Readiness Conference unless the trial Judge has ordered differently.
- Subject to any existing remote appearance authorization, trial counsel must be personally present and the prosecuting attorney must have authority to dispose of the case. The defendant must also be personally present notwithstanding any existing remote appearance authorization.
- The declaration of counsel that the matter is ready for trial shall encompass all issues necessary for the confirmation and commencement of trial on the date the trial is to begin.

**V. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER PETITIONS.**

Petitions seeking Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVRO) or Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO) and Responses to a petition for a Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVRO) or Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO) may be submitted either:

- (a)** In-person;
- (b)** By mail;
- (c)** By fax, following the procedures outlined in Rule 17; or,
- (d)** Electronically by following instructions provided on the Restraining Order webpage on the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov), a link to this webpage is to be prominently displayed on the homepage of the Court's website.

**W. CLERKS AUTHORITY TO GRANT INITIAL FEE WAIVER.**

Pursuant to Government Code § 68634(d), the Court delegates the authority to grant applications for an initial fee waiver that meet the standards of eligibility and application requirements set forth in §§ 68632 and 68633 to the Clerk. In some cases, fee waiver applications may be referred for judicial review and determination.

**X. RELEASE ON NOTICE TO APPEAR.**

- (a) In County.** When Clerks issue misdemeanor warrants for \$5,000 and under, the defendant shall be released on a Notice to Appear if they are contacted within Lassen County.
- (b) Out of County.** When Clerks issue misdemeanor warrants for \$15,000 and under, the defendant shall be released on a Notice to Appear if they are contacted outside of Lassen County.

**Y. PRE-SENTENCE PROBATION INVESTIGATION/REPORTS MISDEMEANOR REFERRAL CRITERIA.**

No misdemeanor conviction shall be referred to the Lassen County Probation Department for a pre-sentence investigation and report, unless the case and its circumstances meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (a)** The crime is a sex offense.
- (b)** The crime is domestic violence.
- (c)** The crime is child abuse.

Exception to the foregoing may be ordered on a case-by-case basis by the Presiding Judge on application of the trial judicial officer.

The Lassen County Probation Department shall adhere to this rule in providing pre-sentence investigations and reports and return to the Clerk of the Court any referral made in violation of this rule.

**Z. PLEA IN ABSENTIA.**

A defendant, in cases where applicable, may enter a plea in absentia through counsel by using Lassen Superior Court's mandatory form, *Plea in Absentia* (LSC-CRIM-025). Defendant and counsel are required to sign the form.

**AA. DETERMINATION ON ABILITY TO PAY.**

A defendant may request a determination of ability to pay online through MyCitations.Courts.CA.gov pursuant to CRC 4.335 or by written petition by filing Judicial Council form TR-320 on the Court pursuant to CRC 4.335(c)(3).

- (1) The assigned judicial officer, or designee assigned by the Presiding Judge, will determine a defendant's ability to pay and apply a reduction on the outstanding balance using the following criteria:
  - (a) If defendant proves that defendant is currently receiving any of the following public benefits: a. CalFresh (Food Stamps); b. Medi-Cal; c. General Assistance/County Relief; d. Supplemental Security Income (SSI); e. State Supplemental Payment (SSP); f. In Home Supportive Services (IHSS); g. California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (CalWORKs); h. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); i. Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), then the assigned judicial officer, or designee assigned by the Presiding Judge, will reduce the fines as is recommended by the MyCitations online tool consistent with Court-established administrative settings for calculating reduction rates.
  - (b) If the defendant proves a current net monthly income that is less than or equal to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, then the assigned judicial officer, or designee assigned by the Presiding Judge, will reduce the fines as is recommended by the MyCitations online tool consistent with Court-established administrative settings for calculating reduction rates.
  - (c) The assigned judicial officer, or designee of the Presiding Judge, may grant a defendant's request for a payment plan, community service, and/or more time to pay the balance.

(2) Should a reduction of an outstanding balance portion of an ability to pay request be denied by a non-judicial officer designee, the defendant has the right to a review of the decision by a judicial officer in the trial court. Defendants requesting a review shall contact the Clerk's Office for additional information on the steps for doing so.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended: 1/1/13, 1/1/15, 1/1/16, 1/1/17, 7/1/18, 7/1/19, 7/1/22, 7/1/23, 1/1/24, 7/1/24, 1/1/25, 7/1/25, 1/1/26)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 2**

### **TRIAL RULES**

#### **A. TRIAL READINESS.**

- (1)** *Motions In Limine* should be made, to the extent practicable, on notice and heard on a law and motion calendar prior to the date of trial. Such motions made on the day of trial shall be served and filed prior to trial, be in writing, and have a proposed order in writing.
- (2)** All exhibits shall be pre-marked by prior arrangement with the trial clerk, and be shown to opposing counsel prior to the opening of trial. Exhibits submitted for pre-marking for trial must comply with the following instructions:
  - (a)** Marking and logging exhibits. Each exhibit must be marked with an exhibit tag or label.
    - (i)** People, Plaintiff & Petitioner exhibits will be assigned numerical designations.
    - (ii)** Defendant & Respondent exhibits will be assigned alphabetical designations.
    - (iii)** If Cross-Plaintiffs or Cross-Defendants are involved or the case(s) involve more than one Defendant, the court may direct an identifier be used when a specific exhibit is not intended to apply to all Plaintiffs or Defendants.
- (3)** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall provide a written witness list to the court prior to the opening of trial.
- (4)** In a civil case, counsel and self-represented litigants shall provide a brief written statement of the nature of the case to the court prior to the opening of trial.
- (5)** Prior to the case being called for trial, counsel and self-represented litigants shall meet and confer upon their respective exhibits and identify those to which no objection will be made, those to which foundational objections are reserved, and those to which objection is made. Counsel and self-represented litigants shall jointly inform the court of the parties' positions on such proposed exhibits.
- (6)** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall meet and confer upon any matters likely to be stipulated or uncontested, and reduce any agreements thereon to writing in a form that can be read into the record if the matter is reported, or if not reported, in a form adequate for filing.

(7) No less than five (5) days prior to the date of commencement of trial, counsel and self-represented litigants shall submit to the court proposed jury instructions in completed written form. All proposed jury instructions must be submitted to the court in the form and format prescribed by California Rules of Court 2.1055.

**B.** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall admonish clients and those witnesses under their control to (1) refrain from any contact with any juror or prospective juror, and (2) refrain from making gestures, grimaces, sighs, or exclamations during any in-court proceeding.

**C.** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall question jurors and witnesses from the lectern or counsel table and shall ask the court's permission to approach a witness.

**D.** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall address all persons, other than child witnesses, by surnames.

**E.** Objections, statements, and arguments (other than jury argument) are to be addressed to the bench, not opposing counsel or self-represented litigants, and parties should stand when addressing statements or argument to the bench.

**F.** Witnesses are ordered excluded from the courtroom, absent a stipulation of parties to the contrary, and counsel and self-represented litigants shall monitor compliance with this order throughout the trial. Designation of an investigating officer in a criminal case shall be made on the record. Counsel and self-represented litigants shall admonish their witness following his or her testimony to not discuss his or her testimony with any other witness during the trial.

**G.** After a ruling by the court upon any objection, motion, or summary request, counsel and self-represented litigants are to make no further argument on the matter. The remedy for an incorrect ruling is appeal, not oratory. It is disruptive to the orderly conduct of a trial to continue arguing after a ruling is made.

**H.** Counsel and self-represented litigants shall not engage in "speaking objections" unless the same are specifically invited by the court. In jury trials, all such arguments shall be made either at sidebar or in chambers. Counsel and self-represented litigants shall inform the court at each sidebar or chambers conference if they wish the conference reported, otherwise the reporter will not report the conference.

**I.** Should counsel or self-represented litigants discuss a case with a juror who is willing to do so after conclusion of the trial, the parties shall keep in mind the duty to not disclose to the juror evidence which was not admitted in the in-court proceedings. Counsel and self-represented litigants shall be cautious to obtain the juror's consent to talk about the case prior to asking any questions and shall respect and maintain the confidentiality of juror information.

- J.** Any firearm exhibit immediately on being brought to court shall be placed in the possession of the court's bailiff for safety inspection and secure holding prior to court convening. Any proposed firearm exhibit shall have affixed thereto a trigger-locking device sufficient to disable the weapon from firing. Firearms shall be viewed with the courtroom evidence display equipment.
- K.** All controlled substances or any item contaminated with blood or other biological residue brought for exhibit purposes shall be enclosed in a sealed, clear plastic of a minimum thickness of four mils. Any syringe shall have fitted to it a safety device enclosing the needle thereof, and then be enclosed in sealed plastic as described above. Any blood evidence shall be enclosed in an unbreakable clear container, which shall itself be enclosed in sealed plastic as described above.
- L.** The courtrooms in the Lassen Superior Court Hall of Justice are equipped with evidence display systems. The equipment is available for counsel and self-represented litigants to use at trial, and consists of a document/object camera, DVD, VCR, and CD player. Counsel and self-represented litigants are to submit requests and make arrangements with court staff for use of the equipment at least five (5) court days prior to trial using the *Request/Notification for Courtroom Audio/Visual Presentation Equipment (LSC-MIS-400)* form.

**M. SPECIAL RULE ON TRAFFIC (VEHICLE CODE) TRIALS.**

**(1) TRIAL BY DECLARATION.**

- (a)** A Defendant may elect to have a trial by written declaration on an alleged infraction not involving an accident pursuant to section 40902 of the Vehicle Code.
- (b)** Based on the decisions, findings, and orders of the judicial officer, the clerk will complete section 4 and section 5 of Judicial Council form TR-215, *Decision and Notice of Decision (Trial by Written Declaration)*.

**N. COURT RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS.**

- (1) Original court case records and exhibits.** Only judicial officers and authorized court personnel shall file, process, remove, replace, edit, mark, copy or destroy original, official, court case records and exhibits. All public and other access to such original records shall be permitted only under direct supervision of such authorized court personnel; and only in accordance with California statutes, the California Rules of Court, and the Rules of this Court.
- (2) Copying and reproducing official court records.** Only judicial officers and authorized court personnel may photocopy or otherwise reproduce original, official, court case records of exhibits. Any such copying or reproduction for public

distribution shall be done only by or under the direct supervision of such authorized personnel, subject to any established court charge for these services. Personal photographing or other reproduction of original court records by the public is not permitted. This rule does not apply to the printing or reproduction of documents that may be posted or otherwise made available in electronic form on the court's website.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 1/1/13, 7/1/22, 1/1/23, 7/1/24)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 3**

### **JUVENILE DEPENDENCY**

#### **A. TIME-LINES AND PROCEDURES, GOVERNING SETTLEMENTS, MEDIATION, AND DISCOVERY PROTOCOL FOR CONTESTED MATTERS.**

- (1) Settlements.** Upon the calendaring of a contested hearing, the court may set each long-cause matter for a readiness conference as near the trial date as will most efficiently utilize the resources of the court. In addition, if it is the opinion of the court that a resolution is possible, the court shall also set the matter for a pre-trial conference. The parties shall inform the court if they believe a disposition conference would be productive.
- (2) Mediation.** At any time prior to dismissal if there are issues of custody and/or visitation and there is no issue of risk of harm to the minor(s), the court may require the parties to schedule and participate in mediation. Minor(s) six (6) years or older must attend the mediation on direction of the mediator.
- (3) Discovery Protocol.** See California Rules of Court, rule 5.546.

#### **B. GENERAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT OF COUNSEL WHO APPEAR IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS.**

All attorneys who appear in juvenile dependency proceedings must meet the minimum standards of competence set forth in this rule and rule 5.660 of the California Rules of Court. These rules apply to attorneys who represent public agencies, attorneys employed by public agencies, and attorneys appointed by the court to represent any party in a juvenile dependency proceeding.

#### **C. PROCEDURES TO SCREEN, TRAIN, AND APPOINT ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING PARTIES.**

- (1)** Each attorney who represents parties in juvenile dependency proceedings shall meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience set forth in these rules. An attorney who appears in a dependency matter for the first time shall complete and submit LSC-JVDP-100, *Certificate of Competency to Practice in Juvenile Dependency Court*, to the court within ten (10) days of his or her first appearance in a dependency matter.
- (2)** Attorneys who meet the minimum standards of training and/or experience as set forth in these rules, as demonstrated by the information contained in the Certificate of Competency submitted to the court, shall be deemed competent to practice before the juvenile court in dependency cases except as provided in section C of this rule.

- (3) Upon submission of a Certificate of Competency, which demonstrates the attorney has met the minimum standards for training and/or experience, the court may determine, based on conduct or performance of counsel before the court in a dependency case, that a particular attorney does not meet minimum competency standards. In such cases, the court shall proceed as set forth in section D(4) wherein an attorney fails to comply.
- (4) Any attorney who appears before the court in a dependency case who does not meet the minimum standards of training or experience shall notify the court to that effect. In such case, the court shall order, except in cases where a party is represented by retained counsel, that certified counsel be substituted for the attorney who does not possess the required training. In the case of retained counsel, the party who has retained counsel shall file a written waiver with the court, stating that they understand their counsel has failed to meet the minimum standards required by these rules and they in fact waive their counsel's failure to meet the minimum standards required by these rules. The determination whether to obtain substitute private counsel shall be solely within the discretion of the party.
- (5) In the case of an attorney who maintains his or her principal office outside of this county, proof of certification by the juvenile court of the California county in which the attorney maintains an office shall be sufficient evidence of competence to appear in a juvenile proceeding in this county.
- (6) If the court determines it to be in the best interest of the minor, the court reserves the right to allow an attorney to continue to represent parties in a juvenile dependency proceeding if said attorney's certificate of competency expires while the appointment is active.

**D. MINIMUM STANDARD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

- (1) Each attorney who appears in a dependency matter before the juvenile court shall not seek certification of competency and shall not be certified by the court as competent until the attorney has completed the following minimum training and educational requirements. Prior to certification, the attorney shall have either:
  - (a) Participated in at least eight (8) hours of training or education in juvenile dependency law, which training or education shall have included information on the applicable case law and statutes, the rules of court, judicial council forms, motions, trial techniques, and skills, writs and appeals, child development, child abuse and neglect, family reunification and preservation;

OR

- (b) At least six (6) months of experience in dependency proceedings in which the attorney has demonstrated competence in the attorney's representation of his

or her clients in said proceedings. In the determination of whether the attorney has demonstrated competence, the court shall consider whether the attorney's performance has substantially complied with the requirements of these rules.

- (2) In order to retain certification to practice before the juvenile court, each attorney who has been previously certified by the court shall submit a new Certificate of Competency to the court on or before February 28 of the third year after the year in which the attorney is first certified and then every third year thereafter. The attorney shall attach to the renewal Certificate of Competency evidence that he or she has completed at least eight (8) hours of continuing training or education directly related to dependency proceedings since the attorney was last certified. Evidence of completion of the required number of hours of training or education may include a copy of a certificate of attendance issued by a California MCLE provider; a certificate of attendance issued by a professional organization which provides training and/or education for its members, whether or not it is an MCLE provider; a copy of the training or educational program schedule together with evidence of attendance at such program; or such other documentation as may reasonably be considered to demonstrate the attorney's attendance at such program. Attendance at a court sponsored or approved program will also fulfill this requirement.
- (3) The attorney's continuing training or education shall be in the areas set forth in section C of this rule, or in other areas related to juvenile dependency practice including, but not limited to, special education, mental health, health care, immigration issues, the rules of evidence, adoption practice and parentage issues, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, state and federal public assistance programs, the Indian Child Welfare Act, client interviewing and counseling techniques, case investigation and settlement negotiations, mediation, basic motion practice and the rules of civil procedure.
- (4) When a certified attorney fails to submit evidence that he or she has completed at least the minimum required training and education to the court by the due date, the court shall notify the attorney that he or she will be decertified. That attorney shall have 20 days from the date of mailing of the notice to submit evidence of his or her completion of the required training or education. If the attorney fails to submit the required evidence or fails to complete the required minimum hours of continuing training or education, the court shall order, except in cases where a party is represented by retained counsel, that certified counsel be substituted for the attorney who fails to complete the required training. In the case of retained counsel, the party who has retained counsel shall file a written waiver with the court, stating that they understand their counsel has failed to meet the minimum standards required by these rules and they in fact waive their counsel's failure to meet the standards required by these rules. The determination of whether to obtain substitute counsel shall be solely within the discretion of the party.

(5) The clerk of the court shall maintain a cumulative list of all attorneys who have filed the required certification with the court, and annually shall notify the presiding judge in writing of the attorneys whose three-year certification period will expire in February of the current year.

**E. PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW AND RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS BY PARTIES REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE OF ATTORNEYS.**

**Complaints or questions by a party regarding representation shall be addressed as follows:**

- (1) Complaints or questions shall initially be referred to any agency or law firm appointed to represent the client.
- (2) If the issue remains unresolved, or if there is no designated agency or law firm, the party may submit the complaint to the court in writing. The court may follow one of the following procedures:
  - (a) Conduct its own review of the complaint or question and take appropriate action if required, or,
  - (b) Refer the complaint to the State Bar.

**F. PROCEDURES TO INFORM THE COURT OF INTERESTS OF THE DEPENDENT CHILD WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER INVESTIGATION, INTERVENTION, OR LITIGATION.**

- (1) Judicial Council forms JV-100, *Juvenile Dependency Petition*, or JV-180, *Modification Petition Attachment* shall be utilized to inform the court and request direction from the court.
- (2) Upon receipt of the request by counsel for instructions from the court, the court shall do one or all of the following:
  - (a) Refer the matter to the appropriate agency for further investigation, and require a report to the court and counsel within a reasonable time;
  - (b) Authorize and direct the child's attorney to initiate and pursue appropriate action;
  - (c) Appoint a guardian ad litem for the child if one is required to initiate and pursue appropriate action; or
  - (d) Take any other action to protect the interests and rights of the child.

## G. THE CHILD ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

The Superior Court may appoint child advocates to represent the interests of dependent children. In order to qualify for appointment, the child advocate must be trained by and function under the auspices of a Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) , formed and operating under the guidelines set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.655 and Welfare & Institutions Code section 356.5.

The CASA. program shall report regularly to the presiding judge of the juvenile court with evidence that it is operating under the guidelines established by the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association and the California State Guidelines for Child Advocates.

- (1) Advocates' functions.** Advocates serve at the pleasure of the court having jurisdiction over the proceeding in which the advocate has been appointed. In general, an advocate's functions are as follows:
  - (a)** To support the child throughout the court proceedings;
  - (b)** To establish a relationship with the child to better understand his or her particular needs and desires;
  - (c)** To communicate the child's needs and desires to the court in written reports and recommendations;
  - (d)** To identify and explore potential resources which will facilitate early family reunification or alternative permanency planning;
  - (e)** To provide continuous attention to the child's situation to ensure that the court's plans for the child are being implemented;
  - (f)** To the fullest extent possible, to communicate and coordinate efforts with the case manager/social worker;
  - (g)** To the fullest extent possible, to communicate and coordinate efforts with the child's attorneys; and
  - (h)** To investigate the interests of the child in other judicial or administrative proceedings outside juvenile court; report to the juvenile court concerning same; and, with the approval of the court, offer his/her services on behalf of the child to such other courts or tribunals.
- (2) Sworn officer of the court.** An advocate is an officer of the court and is bound by these rules. Each advocate shall be sworn in by a Superior Court judge before beginning his/her duties and shall subscribe to a written oath.

**(3) Specific duties.** The court shall, in its initial order of appointment, and thereafter in any subsequent order, specifically delineate the advocate's duties in each case, which may include independent investigation of the circumstances of the case, interviewing and observing the child and other appropriate individuals, reviewing appropriate records and reports, consideration of visitation rights for the child's grandparents and other relatives, and reporting back directly to the court as indicated. If no specific duties are outlined by court order, the advocate shall discharge his/her obligation to the child and the court in accordance with the general duties set forth in this rule.

**(4) Release of information to advocate.**

**(a) Court authorization.** To accomplish the appointment of an advocate, the judge making the appointment shall sign an order granting the advocate the authority to review specific relevant documents and interview parties involved in the case, as well as other persons having significant information relating to the child, to the same extent as any other officer appointed to investigate proceedings on behalf of the court.

**(b) Access to records.** An advocate shall have the same legal right to records relating to the child he/she is appointed to represent as any case manager/social worker with regard to records pertaining to the child held by any agency, school, organization, division, or department of the State, physician, surgeon, nurse, other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health provider or law enforcement agency. The advocate shall present his/her identification as a court-appointed advocate to any such record holder in support of his/her request for access to specific records. No consent from the parent or guardian is necessary for the advocate to have access to any records relating to the child.

CASA volunteers are considered court personnel as that term is used in Welfare and Institutions Code section 827. They shall have access to the Probation Department and Department of Child Protective Services' (CPS) files and information contained therein needed to carry out their responsibilities as court appointed advocates.

Any release by the Probation Department or CPS pursuant to this rule of information made confidential by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10850 shall be considered a disclosure for purposes directly connected with the administration of public social services as that term is used in Welfare & Institutions Code section 10850. Except as contained in their court report and in their dealing with the parties in the particular case, the advocates are prohibited from releasing any information they gain from inspection of these files.

- (5) **Report of child abuse.** An advocate is a mandated child abuse reporter with respect to the case to which the advocate is appointed.
- (6) **Communication with others.** There shall be ongoing, regular communication concerning the child's best interests, current status, and significant case developments, maintained among the advocate, CPS manager, child's attorneys or parents, relatives, foster parents, and any therapist for the child.
- (7) **Right to timely notice.** In any motion concerning the child for whom the advocate has been appointed, the moving party shall provide adequate and timely notice to the advocate appointed for the child.

## **H. PHOTOS OF MINORS IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY CASES.**

Lassen County Family & Child Protective Services (CPS) is directed to provide the Court with a photo of each minor who is subject of a juvenile dependency case. The photo shall be appropriate for the Court's file. Photos shall be provided for all cases currently open and shall be provided for new cases within a reasonable time of the filing of the petition.

## **I. JUVENILE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR FILING.**

With the Court's implementation of a new case management system that can accommodate the filing of one Juvenile Dependency case for multiple children who are all full siblings. When a new Juvenile Dependency case is initiated, the petitioner shall include all full siblings in one petition, and the case will be assigned one case number.

For all documents filed in the case, one original shall be provided to the court, and the submitting party may submit the necessary number of copies to endorse to serve all parties. The court will only maintain one case file, so only one original document needs to be filed for each case containing all siblings.

For all documents filed in the case, all copies of the original document, including attachments, all copies to be endorsed or copies served on counsel must be identical. All reports shall be reviewed by the submitting party prior to filing to ensure the forms for proposed findings and orders are correctly assembled and attached to the report and identical copies are submitted to the court for filing.

## **J. NON-EMERGENCY APPLICATIONS.**

The court having conferred with the Director of the Lassen County Health and Human Services Department Division of Children and Family Protective Services and the Deputy Lassen County Counsel assigned to Dependency Court, the following is hereby required:

Court Clerks shall not accept for filing any non-emergency applications, petitions, or reports without the approving signature of an attorney with the Office of Lassen County

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Counsel, or a Social Worker Supervisor on behalf of the reviewing attorney, and the signatures of the requesting or petitioning Social Worker and Social Worker Supervisor of the Lassen County Children and Family Protective Services.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 7/1/00, 7/1/24)*

**RULE OF COURT NO. 4**

**PROCEDURE IN FAMILY LAW CASES INVOLVING SUPPORT ISSUES**

- A.** All motions, orders to show cause, and requests for order which include a prayer for the establishment or modification of child support or family support, and in which the Department of Child Support Services is a party, shall be heard in Department 7. At the time of filing, the clerk accepting the filing shall designate an appropriate hearing date and time in the Family Court Commissioner's department.
- B.** Pursuant to Family Code sections 10004 and 10005, when deemed appropriate by the court, litigants shall be ordered to the Family Law Facilitator for assistance in understanding their respective rights and obligations regarding support, for preparation of support schedules, and for discussion of issues involving child support, spousal support, and maintenance of health insurance. In the event such discussion does not result in agreement, the Family Law Facilitator shall prepare and submit to the court a written recommendation on the issues presented, with appropriate findings and conclusions thereon.
- C.** Except where good cause is shown, the court shall order that payments pursuant to a child support or family support order when Department of Child Support Services is a party be made through the Department of Child Support Services' California State Disbursement Unit located at P.O. Box 989067, West Sacramento, California 95798.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 1/1/13, 1/1/23, 1/1/24, 1/1/25)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 5**

### **DUTIES OF THE COURT'S FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR**

**The Office of the Family Law Facilitator shall perform each of the duties of that office required by Family Code sections 10004 and 10005, at the direction of the court.**

- A.** Provide educational materials to self-represented litigants concerning the process of establishing parentage and establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support and spousal support, distribute necessary court forms and voluntary declarations of paternity, provide assistance in completing forms, prepare support schedules based on statutory guidelines, and provide referrals to the local child support agency, family court services, and other community agencies and resources that provide services for parents and children. The Office of the Family Law Facilitator shall not advocate on behalf of or represent a party in family matters in the court.
- B.** Upon court order, draft stipulations for parties, including all issues presented and agreed to by the parties.
- C.** Upon court order, prepare formal orders consistent with the court's announced order in cases where the parties are not represented by counsel.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 1/1/13, 1/1/24)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 6**

### **REMOTE APPEARANCE RULES**

#### **6.1 TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE RULE.**

##### **A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW.**

- (1)** The CourtCall Telephonic Appearance Program (CourtCall) organizes a procedure for telephonic appearance by attorneys and self-represented litigants as an alternative to personal appearances in appropriate cases and situations. A CourtCall appearance is fully voluntary and available at a fixed fee or acceptance of a fee waiver for use only in certain civil, unlawful detainer, probate cases, and Title IV-D family support cases.
- (2)** Hearings are conducted in open court or in private as the court may designate. All attorneys and self-represented litigants making CourtCall appearances call a designated toll-free teleconference number five minutes before the calendar is scheduled, to check in with the clerk. Attorneys and self-represented litigants remain on the court's speakerphone-telephone line and hear the same business that those present in the court may be hearing. Attorneys and self-represented litigants not participating telephonically appear in person. The court calls the cases and all the attorneys and self-represented litigants on a case participate in the hearing. All present in the courtroom hear the discourse of those making CourtCall appearances.
- (3)** CourtCall appearances are scheduled, in writing, in advance, by serving on all parties to the action and delivering (via fax, mail, or personal delivery) to CourtCall, not less than 5 court days prior to the hearing date, LSC-MIS-025, *Request for CourtCall Telephonic Appearance* form, and by paying the stated fee or fee waiver for each CourtCall appearance.
- (4)** If the self-represented litigant has a fee waiver issued by the court, they are required to fax a copy of the fee waiver to CourtCall in lieu of payment. A copy of the valid fee waiver must be provided for each CourtCall appearance.
- (5)** Participating parties shall expressly understand that there may be waiting periods for the case to be called on the CourtCall system of up to an hour, and election to use this appearance system option includes agreement that the party or counsel will be on the CourtCall from the time of hearing to the time the case is called and heard.

##### **B. PARTICIPATION IN COURTCALL APPEARANCES.**

###### **(1) Courts.**

- (a)** In all general civil cases, a party providing notice may appear by telephone at the following conferences, hearings, and proceedings as follows:
  - (i)** Hearings on law and motion matters, except for motions in limine;
  - (ii)** Case management conferences, provided the party has made a good faith effort to meet and confer before the conference as required by law and has timely served and filed a case management statement;
  - (iii)** Trial setting conferences;
  - (iv)** Hearings on discovery motions;
  - (v)** Conferences to review the status of an arbitration or mediation;
  - (vi)** Hearings to review the dismissal of an action;
  - (vii)** Title IV-D family support non-evidentiary hearing conferences, or law and motion matters;
  - (viii)** Any other hearing, conference, or proceeding if the court determines that a telephonic appearance is appropriate.
- (b)** A court may require a party to appear in person at any hearing, conference, or proceeding listed above in subdivision if the court determines on a hearing by hearing basis that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceedings or in the effective management or resolution of the particular case.
- (c)** The court reserves the authority, at any time, to reject any *Request for CourtCall Appearance*. When the court rejects a request, it shall order the refund of deposited telephonic appearance fees and notify CourtCall.
- (d)** The court reserves the authority to halt the telephonic hearing on any matter and order the attorneys and self-represented litigants to personally appear at a later date and time, in which case no refund is permitted.
- (e)** If a matter is continued prior to the actual hearing date, the prior filing of a *Request for CourtCall Appearance* form shall remain valid for the continued date of the hearing.
- (f)** Existing rules and procedures regarding the making of the record by a court reporter or electronic device or obtaining a transcript after the hearing shall apply to hearings at which CourtCall appearances are made. No recordings may be made of telephonic appearances except in compliance with California Rules of Court 1.150.

**(2) Attorneys and Self-Represented Litigants.**

- (a) Attorneys and self-represented litigants electing to make a CourtCall appearance for eligible hearings and conferences shall serve on all other parties in the case the *Request for CourtCall Appearance* form, fax a copy of the form to CourtCall, and pay the CourtCall appearance fee in the method prescribed, not less than five (5) court days before the hearing date.
- (b) Attorneys and self-represented litigants choosing to make a CourtCall appearance shall place the phrase “CourtCall Telephone Appearance” below the title of the moving or opposing papers.

## C. APPEARANCE PROCEDURE.

- (1) **An attorney or self-represented litigant making a CourtCall appearance shall:**
  - (a) Eliminate to the greatest extent possible all ambient noise from the attorney’s or self-represented litigant’s location;
  - (b) Be required, during the attorney’s or self-represented litigant’s appearance, to speak directly into a telephone handset;
- (2) An attorney or self-represented litigant making a CourtCall appearance shall call the courts designated toll-free teleconference line approximately 15 minutes prior to the scheduled hearing time and check in with the clerk. An attorney or self-represented litigant calling after the check-in period shall be considered to be late for the hearing and shall be sanctioned in the same manner as if the attorney or self-represented litigant had personally appeared late for the hearing.
- (3) An attorney or self-represented litigant appearing telephonically shall state his or her name for the record each time he or she speaks and shall participate in the appearance with the same degree of courtesy and courtroom etiquette as is required for a personal appearance. An attorney or self-represented litigant shall not utilize the “hold” button.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 7/1/11, 7/1/22, renumbered 1/1/23)*

## 6.2 REMOTE APPEARANCES VIA ZOOM.

### A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW.

This Local Rule is to provide greater access to justice, promote court efficiency, and is adopted pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §§ 367.75 and 367.76, California Rules of Court, Rule 3.672, Penal Code §§ 977, 977.3, 1043.5, and 1428.5, and Welfare and Institutions Code § 679.5.

Further information on how to appear remotely and instructions relating to remote appearances in this court can be found on the Remote Appearance and Zoom Appearance pages of the court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

- (1)** Remote Appearances in Contested Hearings must be by video, no audio-only appearances are permitted.
- (2)** Recording a court proceeding through any means is prohibited unless/until the judicial officer specifically grants permission to record as per California Rules of Court, Rule 1.150(c) & (d). A violation of this rule may result in the imposition of sanctions as set forth in subsection (f) of Rule 1.150.
- (3)** The court does not provide technical support for Zoom participants. Please contact the Zoom Help Center, your local IT support, or seek other online guidance if you are experiencing issues with your connection.
- (4)** Any person appearing remotely shall conduct themselves in the same manner as if they were appearing in person.
- (5)** If at any time during a remote proceeding the judicial officer determines that a personal appearance is necessary, the court may continue the matter and require a personal appearance.
- (6)** In the event technology or audibility issues arise that cannot be resolved in a reasonable amount of time, parties may be required to appear in person.

## **B. TRAFFIC INFRACTION CASES.**

Notwithstanding any other law, Penal Code § 1428.5(a) provides the Court authority to conduct remote proceedings, including arraignments and trials, for all infractions.

This rule does not apply to Misdemeanor or Felony traffic related cases. See Rule 6.2(C) for remote appearance rules covering these proceedings.

The Court generally allows remote appearances in Traffic Infraction cases without judicial approval. This includes Traffic Court Trials:

### **(1) ARRAIGNMENTS**

Defendants who wish to remotely appear for their traffic arraignment must submit the electronic *Traffic Calendar Add-On Request* form located on the Zoom Appearance page of the court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov) no later than the Friday before their appearance date. Submission of this form will indicate to the court your intention to appear remotely for your traffic appearance pursuant to Penal Code § 1428.5(a)(1) and will place your matter on calendar.

## **(2) FURTHER PROCEEDINGS & COURT TRIALS**

Defendants who have a mandatory appearance date or prior scheduled further proceeding or Traffic Court Trial may appear remotely. Connection details and additional instructions for Traffic Court Trials and Further Proceeding Remote Appearances are located on the Zoom Appearance page of the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

### **(a) OFFICER AND OTHER PARTY APPEARANCES**

The Defendant's consent is required to conduct traffic proceedings remotely (*PC § 1428.5(a)(1)*), officers or other parties intending to appear remotely must inform the Court of their intention to do so. Additionally, notice of such must be served on all other parties to the proceeding. This request can be submitted using Judicial Council form *RA-010*. A defendant may oppose this request by filing Judicial Council form *RA-015* with the court and serving all parties. For the purposes of this rule, service and filing requirements and deadlines will follow those outlined in California Rules of Court, Rule 3.672(h).

If a defendant and retained counsel appear from different locations, it is the defendant and counsel's responsibility to set up a private line of communication during the hearing; the court is not obligated to provide one.

## **C. CRIMINAL CASES.**

Notwithstanding any other law, Penal Code §§ 977, 977.3, and 1043.5 allows the following remote appearances by defendants and witnesses in criminal cases.

This rule does not apply to mentally disordered offender, commitment, competency, placement and revocation, and other proceedings identified in Code of Civil Procedure § 367.76(a)(1). See Rule 6.2(G) for remote appearance rules covering those proceedings.

### **(1) MISDEMEANORS**

- (a)** Defendants may appear remotely in all misdemeanor proceedings except misdemeanor jury and court trials.
- (b)** Attorneys may appear remotely if the court finds it appropriate and practicable.

### **(2) FELONIES**

- (a)** Defendants may appear remotely in all felony proceedings except trials and sentencing unless the court allows the waiver of defendant's presence for

noncritical portions of felony trials where no testimonial evidence is taken. Remote proceedings are allowed in postconviction relief proceedings and as otherwise provided by law.

- (b)** Attorneys may appear remotely if the court finds it appropriate and practicable.

**(3) WITNESSES**

- (a)** Witnesses may appear remotely for misdemeanor and felony proceedings – except for felony trials and only with the consent of both parties and the court.
- (b)** Witnesses may appear remotely as otherwise allowed by statutes for the closed-circuit examination of victims of sexual crimes and conditional examinations of witnesses.

Connection details and additional instructions for Criminal Remote Appearances are located on the Zoom Appearance page of the Court's website  
[www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

**D. JUVENILE DEPENDENCY CASES.**

- (1)** Parties can request a Remote Appearance by using Judicial Council forms *RA-025, RA-030, and RA-015* pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.672 and Code of Civil Procedure § 367.75. Parties are required to reference the California Rules of Court and Code of Civil Procedure for service and filing requirements.
- (2)** All statutory confidentiality requirements applicable to Juvenile Dependency proceedings held in person apply equally to remote proceedings.
- (3)** Any person entitled to be present under California Rules of Court, Rule 5.530(b) or authorized by court order may request to appear remotely and provide the request to the court no later than the time the case is called.
- (4)** Requests for a witness to appear by Remote Appearance must be made in writing, the attorney for the party calling the witness may make a request on behalf of the witness by filing form *RA-025* and serving a copy on all parties by any means authorized by law no later than three (3) court days before the hearing.
- (5)** Notwithstanding California Rules of Court, Rule 3.672 and Code of Civil Procedure § 367.75, a party may ask the court to appear remotely without notice or a timely request. The court may permit the remote appearance upon a finding of good cause, unforeseen circumstances, or that allowing the remote appearance would promote access to justice.

**E. NON-CRIMINAL CCP § 367.75 PROCEEDINGS (ADOPTION, CIVIL, SMALL CLAIMS, FAMILY LAW, AND PROBATE).**

Remote appearances in civil cases, excluding proceedings in matters identified in Code of Civil Procedure § 367.76(a)(1) and Welfare and Institutions Code § 679.5, are governed by California Rule of Court, Rule 3.672 and Code of Civil Procedure § 367.75. This rule applies to all civil cases subject to Code of Civil Procedure § 367.75. Rule 6.2(G) covers remote appearances pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 367.76. Rule 6.2(H) covers remote appearances pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 679.5.

- (1)** Parties can request a Remote Appearance by using Judicial Council forms *RA-010* and *RA-015* pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.672 and Code of Civil Procedure § 367.75. Parties are required to reference the California Rules of Court and Code of Civil Procedure for service and filing requirements.
- (2)** The court will presume that parties set for a hearing in Non-Criminal proceedings will be appearing in person unless the party participating in the hearing requests, or notifies the court of their intention to appear remotely, or the court has ordered a remote appearance on its own motion, by tentative ruling, probate notes or local rule.
- (3)** Remote Appearances will not be permitted if the tentative ruling or probate notes posted for the hearing states that a personal appearance is required, or the court advises the person requesting to appear remotely that the judicial officer has determined that an in-person appearance is necessary to assist the determination of hearing the in question.
- (4)** Each judicial officer may, on their own motion, order that a trial or evidentiary hearing, at which witnesses will be sworn and testimony received will be conducted remotely unless an objecting party establishes that a remote appearance or testimony should not be allowed or a party fails to consent to the witness's remote appearance. An expert witness may appear remotely absent a showing by an objecting party that there is good cause to compel in-person testimony.
- (5)** When a remote appearance is authorized and commences, the judicial officer may terminate a remote appearance and continue the matter so that an in-person appearance can occur if technology or audibility issues interfere with the judicial officer's ability to make a determination required by the hearing, the in-person appearance is necessary to assist in the determination of the specific hearing, the court reporter's availability to make an accurate transcript, counsel's ability to provide effective representation, or an interpreter's ability to provide language access.

**F. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER AND GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER PETITION APPEARANCES.**

- (1) Pursuant to Family Code § 6308, the Court permits remote appearances for parties, support persons as defined in Family Code § 6303, or witnesses appearing at a hearing on a petition for a domestic violence restraining order.
- (2) Pursuant to Penal Code § 18123, the Court permits remote appearances for parties or witnesses appearing at a hearing on a petition for a gun violence restraining order.
- (3) Instructions and connection details for remote appearances permitted under this rule and relevant statutes is to be posted on the Zoom Appearance page of the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

**G. MENTAL HEALTH, CONTEMPT, COMPETENCY, STATE HOSPITAL, AND OTHER CCP § 367.76 PROCEEDINGS.**

Remote appearances in proceedings identified in Code of Civil Procedure § 367.76(a)(1) will be permitted by the court as covered and as described in the Code of Civil Procedure section.

Instructions and connection details for remote appearances permitted under this rule and relevant statutes is to be posted on the Zoom Appearance page of the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

**H. JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCEEDINGS.**

Remote appearances in juvenile justice proceedings identified in Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 601 and 602 will be permitted by the court as covered and as described in Welfare and Institutions Code § 679.5.

Instructions and connection details for remote appearances permitted under this rule and relevant statutes is to be posted on the Zoom Appearance page of the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

*(Effective 1/1/23, as amended: 7/1/23, 1/1/24, 7/1/24)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 7**

### **CIVIL LITIGATION DELAY REDUCTION**

#### **A. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

These Rules are revised and promulgated pursuant to the Trial Court Delay Reduction Act of 1986, as revised, set forth in Government Code section 68600, et seq. and California Rules of Court Title 3 Civil Rules et seq. and apply to all pending and hereafter filed civil actions in this court which are designed for inclusion in the Lassen Superior Court Delay Reduction Program as set forth in these rules.

It is the policy of the Lassen Superior Court to actively manage, supervise and control the litigation of all actions subject to these rules from initiation of an action through disposition, for the purpose of resolving all subject civil cases with economy to the parties in the most efficient manner consistent with the obligation of the court to give full and careful consideration to all issues presented for resolution and provide a forum wherein the parties may adequately prepare and present their cases before the court.

**The goal of the Program is to manage civil cases from filing so that:**

- (1) Of unlimited civil cases, 75% are disposed of within 12 months, 85% are disposed of within 18 months, and 100% are disposed of within 24 months.
- (2) Of limited civil cases, 90% are disposed of within 12 months, 98% are disposed of within 18 months, and 100% are disposed of within 24 months.

In managing individual civil cases the court must consider each case on its merits. To enable the fair and efficient resolution of civil cases, each case should be set for trial as soon as appropriate for that individual case consistent with Rule 3.729.

#### **B. CIVIL CASES SUBJECT TO PROGRAM.**

All civil cases filed in the court are subject to the Program except those in the following categories:

<b>Probate</b>	<b>Guardianship</b>	<b>Conservatorship</b>
<b>Family Law</b>	<b>Adoptions</b>	<b>Small Claims</b>
<b>Unlawful Detainer</b>	<b>Small Claims Appeals</b>	<b>Writs</b>
<b>Civil Petitions</b>	<b>Sister State Judgments</b>	<b>Water Rights</b>
<b>Juvenile Court Proceedings</b>		

#### **C. LAW AND MOTION MATTERS NOT SUBJECT TO PROGRAM.**

Any law and motion matters not specifically related to the processing of the case pursuant to these rules or encompassed in the management of the case pursuant to these rules shall be set and noticed in the appropriate law and motion department of the court.

**D. DUTIES OF CLERK AND PARTY/ATTORNEY UPON FILING FIRST PAPER.**

At the time of filing of the initial paper instituting a subject case, the clerk shall provide to the party or attorney for the party presenting the document for filing LSC-CIV-025, *Delay Reduction Program Notice*. A copy of that document shall be served upon each other party with the Summons or other first document served upon them. Any party filing a Cross-Complaint shall serve a copy of the document with the Summons or other first document served upon any Cross-Defendants who have not previously been served as a party to the action.

**E. TIME FOR SERVICE OF COMPLAINT, CROSS-COMPLAINT AND RESPONSE.**

- (1) Applicability.** This rule applies to the service of pleadings in civil cases except for unlawful detainer actions, proceedings under the Family Code, and other proceedings for which different service requirements are prescribed by law.
- (2) Service of Complaint.** The Complaint must be served on all named Defendants and proofs of service on those Defendants must be filed with the court within 60 days after the filing of the Complaint. When the Complaint is amended to add a Defendant, the added Defendant must be served and proof of service must be filed within 30 days after the filing of the amended complaint.
- (3) Service of Cross-Complaint.** A Cross-Complaint against a party who has appeared in the action must be accompanied by proof of service of the Cross-Complaint at the time it is filed. If the Cross-Complaint adds new parties, the Cross-Complaint must be served on all parties, and proofs of service on the new parties must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the Cross-Complaint.
- (4) Timing of Responsive Pleadings.** The parties may stipulate without leave of court to one 15-day extension beyond the 30-day time period prescribed for the response after service of the initial Complaint with written notice to the court.
- (5) Modification of Timing; application for order extending time.** The court, on its own motion or on the application of a party, may extend or otherwise modify the times provided in (2)–(4). An application for a court order extending the time to serve a pleading must be filed before the time for service has elapsed. The application must be accompanied by a declaration showing why service has not been effected, documenting the efforts that have been made to effect service, and specifying the date by which service is proposed to be effected.

- (6) **Request for Entry of Default.** If a responsive pleading is not served within the time limits specified in this rule and no extension of time has been granted, the Plaintiff within 10 days after the time of service has elapsed must file a Request for Entry of Default.
- (7) **Default Judgment.** When a default is entered, the party to request the entry of default must obtain a Default Judgment against the defaulting party within 45 days after entry of default, unless the court has granted an extension of time.

**F. CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE; MEET-AND-CONFER REQUIREMENT; AND CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER.**

- (1) **Initial case management review.** In every general civil case except complex cases and cases exempted under California Rules of Court, rules 3.712, 3.714, and 3.735, the court shall review the case no later than 180 days after the filing of the initial complaint.

**(2) Case management conference.**

- (a) **Case management conference.** In each case, the court will set an initial case management conference to review the case. Notice of the case management conference will be given to all parties no later than 45 days before the conference, unless otherwise ordered by the court. At the conference, counsel for each party and self-represented litigant must appear personally or, if permitted under rule 3.670, by telephone, must be familiar with the case, and must be prepared to discuss and commit to the party's position on the issues listed in (5)-(6) below.

At the initial conference, the court must review the case comprehensively and decide whether to assign the case to an alternative dispute resolution process, whether to set the case for trial, and the other matters stated in this rule. The initial case management conference should generally be the first case management event conducted by court order in each case, except for orders to show cause.

- (b) **Case management order without appearance.** If, based on its review of the written submissions of the parties and such other information as is available, the court determines that appearances at the conference are not necessary, the court may issue a case management order and notify the parties that no appearance is required.
- (3) **Special order or request for a case management conference.** The court on its own motion may order, or a party or parties may request, that a case management conference be held at any time.

- (4) Arbitration determination.** The court at the case management conference or review will determine if the case is suitable for judicial arbitration pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.11(b).
- (5) Subjects to be considered at the case management conference.** In any case management conference or review under this rule, the parties must address, if applicable, and the court may take appropriate action with respect to, the following:
  - (a) Whether there are any related cases;
  - (b) Whether all parties named in the complaint or cross-complaint have been served, have appeared, or have been dismissed;
  - (c) Whether any additional parties may be added or the pleadings may be amended;
  - (d) Whether, if the case is a limited civil case, the economic litigation procedures under Code of Civil Procedure section 90 et seq. will apply to it or the party intends to bring a motion to exempt the case from these procedures;
  - (e) Whether any other matters (e.g. the bankruptcy of a party) may affect the court's jurisdiction or processing of the case;
  - (f) Whether the parties have stipulated to, or the case should be referred to, judicial arbitration or any other form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and, if so, the date by which the ADR must be completed;
  - (g) Whether an early settlement conference should be scheduled and, if so, on what date;
  - (h) Whether discovery has been completed and, if not, the date by which it will be completed; disclosing all who have been deposed; all who are to be deposed, when and where they are to be deposed, and the reason why each person is being deposed.
  - (i) What discovery issues are anticipated;
  - (j) Whether the case should be bifurcated or a hearing should be set for a motion to bifurcate under Code of Civil Procedure, section 598;
  - (k) Whether there are any Cross-Complaints that are not ready to be set for trial and, if so, whether they should be severed;

- (l) Whether the case is entitled to any statutory preference and, if so, the statute granting the preference;
- (m) Whether a jury trial is demanded, and, if so, the identity of each party requesting a jury trial;
- (n) The date by which the case will be ready for trial;
- (o) The estimated length of trial;
- (p) The nature of the injuries;
- (q) The amount of damages, including any special or punitive damages;
- (r) Any additional relief sought;
- (s) Whether there are any insurance coverage issues that may affect the resolution of the case; and
- (t) Any other matters that should be considered by the court or addressed in its case management order.

(6) **Meet-and-confer requirement.** Unless the court orders another time period, no later than 30 days before the date set for the case management conference, the parties must meet and confer, in person or by telephone, to consider each of the issues identified in (5) and, in addition, to consider the following:

- (a) Resolving any discovery disputes and setting a discovery schedule;
- (b) Identifying and, if possible, informally resolving any anticipated motions;
- (c) Identifying the facts and issues in the case that are uncontested and may be the subject of stipulation;
- (d) Identifying the facts and issues in the case that are in dispute;
- (e) Determining whether the issues in the case can be narrowed by eliminating any claims or defenses by means of a motion or otherwise;
- (f) Whether there will be an independent medical exam and, if so, the date the parties expect to schedule the same;
- (g) The nature of experts who are anticipated to be used at trial.

**(7) Case Management Statement.**

- (a) Timing of statement.** No later than 15 calendar days before the date set for the case management conference or review, each party must file a case management statement and serve it on all other parties in the case.
- (b) Contents of statement.** Parties must use the mandatory CM-110, *Case Management Statement* form. All applicable items on the form must be completed. In lieu of each party filing a separate case management statement, any two or more parties may file a joint statement under this rule.
- (c) Description of case.** Parties shall provide a statement of the case, including any damages, with sufficient detail and specificity. The claims and causes of action must be clearly identified and adequately described. The nature and amount of damages must be clearly identified and adequately described, to include the specific injury and specific dollar amount if monetary damages are sought. Indicating “nature and amount of damages to be determined” or other non-specific statements regarding damages will be deemed insufficient and non-compliant with this local rule.
- (d) Discovery.** Parties must indicate whether or not all discovery has been completed. If all discovery has not been completed, parties shall describe in substantial detail: (1) the identity of the party with incomplete discovery; (2) the description of the incomplete discovery; and (3) the specific dates by which the incomplete discovery will be completed. Indicating “pursuant to code” or other non-specific statements regarding the date by which incomplete discovery will be completed will be deemed insufficient and non-compliant with this local rule.

**(8) Stipulation to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).** If all parties agree to use an ADR process, they must jointly complete the ADR stipulation form provided for under California Rules of Court 3.221 and file it with the court.

**(9) Case management order.** The case management conference must be conducted in the manner provided by local rule. The court will enter a case management order setting a schedule for subsequent proceedings and otherwise providing for the management of the case. The order should include such provisions as may be appropriate, including:

- (a)** Referral of the case to judicial arbitration or some other form of alternative dispute resolution;
- (b)** A date for completion of the arbitration process or other form of alternative dispute resolution process if the case has been referred to such a process;

- (c) Whether all parties necessary to the disposition of the case have been served or have appeared;
- (d) The dismissal or severance of parties not served or not appearing in the action;
- (e) The names and addresses of the attorneys who will try the case;
- (f) The date, time, and place for a mandatory settlement conference;
- (g) The date, time, and place for a final case management conference before trial if such a conference is required by the court or the judge assigned to the case;
- (h) The date, time, and place of any further case management conferences or review; and
- (i) Any additional orders that may be appropriate, including orders on matters listed in (5) and (6).

(10) **Case management order controls.** The order issued after the case management conference or review controls the subsequent course of the action or proceeding unless it is modified by a subsequent order.

## **G. Further Case Management Conference.**

After the first case management conference, the court will normally set one or a series of further case management conferences, for each of which the parties have the same duties as with the first (service and filing of a case management statement and appearance of the party or trial counsel). The parties will be expected to have completed the discovery identified in the order from the first case management conference within the time limits set for the same in the order.

## **H. At-Issue Memorandum Abolished.**

No At-Issue Memorandum shall be filed by the clerk of the court in any case subject to this rule. Requests for trial shall be made on the case management statement together with request for court reporter services.

## **I. Responsibility of Case Management Judge.**

The responsibility of the case management judge is to achieve a just and effective processing of each subject case through active management and supervision of the pace of litigation from the date of filing to disposition.

**J. STIPULATIONS FOR RELIEF FROM RULES PROHIBITED.**

The parties to an action subject to these rules shall not enter a stipulation that purports to relieve any or all parties from the operation of these rules. Any request for relief from any part of these rules shall be on noticed motion to the appropriate law and motion calendar judge (not to the case management judge.)

- K.** Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant must file a dismissal within 45 days of settlement of the Complaint/Cross-Complaint. If the Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant fails to do so the court will dismiss the case unless good cause is shown why the case should not be dismissed (Rule of Court 3.1385(b)).
- L.** Failure to follow any of the foregoing Delay Reduction Program/Case Management Program Rules may result in an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed pursuant to Rule of Court 2.30. Similarly, failure to follow any aspect of a case management order, including but not limited to discovery schedules, may result in an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 177.5 and/or California Rules of Court 2.30.

**M. SANCTIONS FOR DELAY IN PROSECUTING AN ACTION.**

The court may on its own motion or on a motion for defendant issue sanctions of dismissal under California Rules of Court 3.1340 or impose other less severe sanctions as otherwise provided by law that the court deems appropriate for a delay in prosecution, if the action has not been brought to trial or conditional settlement within two years after the action was commenced against Defendant.

*(Effective 7/1/99, as amended 1/1/13, 7/1/19)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 8**

### **JURY SERVICE AND DEFERMENT**

#### **A. DUTY OF CITIZENS.**

Jury service, unless excused by law, is a responsibility of citizenship. The court and its staff should employ all necessary and appropriate means to assure that citizens fulfill this important civic responsibility.

#### **B. WRITTEN COURT POLICY.**

Pursuant to Division 1, Section 4.5 of the Standards of Judicial Administration of the California Rules of Court, the court hereby adopts criteria governing the granting of excuses from jury service on grounds of undue hardship based on Code of Civil Procedure section 204. The policy incorporates the following principles:

- (1)** No class or category or persons will be automatically excluded from jury service except as provided by law.
- (2)** A statutory exemption from jury duty service will be granted only when the eligible person claims it.
- (3)** Deferring jury service shall be preferred to excusing a prospective juror for a temporary or marginal hardship.
- (4)** Inconvenience to a prospective juror or an employer is not an adequate reason to be excused from jury service, although it may be considered a ground for deferral.

#### **C. REQUEST TO BE EXCUSED.**

All requests to be excused from jury service that are granted for undue hardship shall be in writing from the prospective juror, or placed on the court's record. The prospective juror shall support the request with facts specifying the hardship in a statement about why the circumstances constituting the undue hardship cannot be avoided by deferring the prospective juror's service.

#### **D. GROUNDS CONSTITUTING UNDUE HARDSHIP.**

An excuse on the grounds of undue hardship may be granted for any of the following reasons:

- (1)** The prospective juror has no reasonably available means of public or private transportation.

- (2) The prospective juror travels a distance exceeding 1 and ½ hours from the prospective juror's home.
- (3) The prospective juror will bear an extreme financial burden. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror, consideration shall be given to:

  - (a) The source of the prospective juror's household income;
  - (b) The availability and extent of income reimbursement;
  - (c) The expected length of service; and
  - (d) Whether service can reasonably be expected to compromise that person's ability to support himself or herself or his or her dependents or so disrupt the economic stability of any individual as to be against the interest of justice.
- (4) The prospective juror will bear an undue risk of material injury to or destruction of property of the prospective juror, where it is not feasible to make alternative arrangements to alleviate the risk. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror, consideration shall be given to;

  - (a) The nature of the property;
  - (b) The source and duration of the risk;
  - (c) The probability that the risk will be realized;
  - (d) The reason why alternative arrangements to protect the property cannot be made; and
  - (e) Whether material injury to or destruction of the property will so disrupt the economic stability of any individual as to be against the interest of justice.
- (5) The prospective juror has a physical or mental disability or impairment, not affecting that person's competence to act as a juror that would expose the potential juror to undue risk of mental or physical harm. In an individual case, except where the person is aged 70 years or older, the prospective juror shall be required to furnish verification or a method of verification of the disability or impairment, its probable duration, and the particular reasons for the person's inability to serve as a juror.
- (6) The prospective juror's services are immediately needed for the protection of public health and safety, and it is feasible to make alternative arrangements to

relieve the person of these responsibilities during the period of service as a juror without substantially reducing essential public services.

(7) The prospective juror has a personal obligation to provide actual and necessary care to another, including sick, aged, or infirm dependents, or a child who requires the prospective juror's personal care and attention, and no comparable substitute care is either available or practical without imposing undue economic hardship on the prospective juror or person cared for. Whether a request to be excused is based on care provided to a sick, disabled, or infirm person, the prospective juror may be required to furnish verification or a method of verification that the person being cared for is in need of regular and personal care.

**E. PRIOR JURY SERVICE.**

A prospective juror, who served on a grand or trial jury during the immediately preceding 12 months, shall be excused from jury service on a request for a period of one (1) year from the date of such service.

**F. VALID REASONS FOR A PROSPECTIVE JUROR TO BE EXCUSED.**

Upon request, the jury commissioner of the Lassen Superior Court is empowered to excuse from jury service persons for whom jury service would entail an undue hardship as herein above defined.

**G. EXAMPLES OF VALID REASONS FOR A PROSPECTIVE JUROR TO BE DEFERRED.**

Upon request, the jury commissioner of the Lassen Superior Court is empowered to postpone the jury service of a person for a period not to exceed 180 days for the following reasons:

- (1) A temporary illness;
- (2) A scheduled vacation that involves prepaid commitments, or cannot be otherwise conveniently rescheduled;
- (3) An important business demand of a nonrecurring nature which cannot be conveniently rescheduled;
- (4) A work hardship, i.e., there is no one available to take the place of that particular employee at the present time and, as a result, the business would suffer severe financial or business hardship;
- (5) Child care responsibilities;

- (6) A full time student when jury service would jeopardize his/her academic program;
- (7) Any other legitimate temporary hardship not expressly defined that in the opinion of the jury commissioner of the Lassen Superior Court would justify temporary deferment of jury service.

All other persons whose jury service has been postponed shall be called to jury service when the reasons for the postponement no longer exist.

**H. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR JURY SERVICE.**

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 209, any prospective juror who has been summoned for service, and who fails to respond as directed and be excused from attendance, will be issued a Failure to Appear/Respond to a Jury Summons notice to appear in court; may have monetary sanctions imposed on them (up to \$1,500); may be found in contempt of court, punishable by fine (up to \$1,000), incarceration (5 days), or both.

*(Effective 7/1/00, as amended 7/1/05, 7/1/22, 1/1/24)*

**RULE OF COURT NO. 9**

**MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS COMPROMISE**

**A.** A petition for court approval of a compromise or covenant not to sue pursuant to Probate Code section 2504 or 3500 shall be verified by the petitioner and must comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1384, Rules 7.950 – 7.955, and shall include:

- (1)** The name, birth date, age, and sex of the minor or incompetent person;
- (2)** The nature and extent of the injury giving rise to the claim with sufficient particularity to inform the court whether such injury is permanent or temporary;
- (3)** A doctor's report containing a diagnosis of the injury, a current report of present condition, and prognosis for future medical care;
- (4)** The facts and circumstances out of which the claim or injury arose, including the time, place, and persons involved;
- (5)** A full disclosure of all information concerning the reasonableness of the proposed compromise of covenant not to sue, including the amounts, if any, paid or to be paid to other claimants;
- (6)** If the settlement is structured, the present cash value of the settlement;
- (7)** A summary of all medical expenses paid or owing to each health care provider, and the source of any payments;
- (8)** If the money is to be deposited in an account subject to withdrawal only upon order of the court, the name, and address of the depository; and
- (9)** The amount of attorneys' fees requested. The court will use a reasonable fee standard when approving and allowing the amount of attorney's fees payable from money or property paid or to be paid for the benefit of a minor or a person with a disability. In computing fees, the expenses of litigation to be reimbursed shall not be included in the "amount recovered" for the purpose of fixing fees. Such expenses of litigation shall be separately itemized. Except in cases of hardship, parents should pay their proportionate share of attorneys' fees and costs.
- (10)** Petition for withdrawal of funds. A petition for withdrawal of money deposited in a bank, trust company, or savings and loan association on behalf of a minor or incompetent person shall be verified by the guardian, conservator, or trustee and, in the case of a competent minor, by such minor if the minor is at least 12 years of

age. The petition for withdrawal shall contain the current age of the minor, the current amount on deposit, the amount and purpose of the present withdrawal.  
*(Effective 7/1/00, as amended 7/1/06, 7/1/23)*

**RULE OF COURT NO. 10**  
**APPELLATE DIVISION**

**A. SESSIONS.**

The Appellate Division will convene at times and places designated by the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division. Effective July 1, 2024, each respective county will process their own appeals.

**B. JUDGE.**

The Presiding Judge of each court or his/her designee shall act as the Appellate Division Presiding Judge rotating every two years, commencing January 1, 2020, in the following order by court: Modoc, Sierra, Lassen, and Plumas. The Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division shall oversee the processing of appeals; appoint three judges to hear each case, and designate one of them to preside over that panel, who shall be designated as the presiding judge of the panel; and act upon routine matters, applications, and motions before the court.

**C. BRIEFS.**

All briefs filed with the Appellate Division must be bound on the top, with covers in colors as designated by California Rules of Court 8.40(a). Copies are not required to be submitted because briefs are submitted to the appellate panel judges electronically, eliminating the need for additional copies.

Briefs that are filed by fax filing under Section I or electronically filed under Section J are not required to be bound or to have covers in the colors designated by California Rules of Court 8.40(a).

**D. MOTIONS.**

All motions, including ex parte applications for orders in a case where there has not been an appointment of a hearing panel and presiding judge thereof, shall be presented to the presiding judge of the Appellate Division. In cases where a panel designation has been made, they shall be presented to the presiding judge of the panel. Any such presiding judge may act on routine matters or may schedule a motion for hearing before the panel at his or her discretion.

**E. MOTIONS FOR AUGMENTATION AND CORRECTION OF THE RECORD;  
MOTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE RECORD.**

- (1) All motions for augmentation and correction of the record pursuant to Rule 8.841, California Rules of Court, and motions for the addition of omitted portions of the record pursuant to Rule 8.841, California Rules of Court, shall set forth the facts showing: 1) good cause why the materials have not been included in the record on appeal; and 2) any previous motions for augmentation or additions to the record granted or denied to any party after filing of the notice of appeal.
- (2) All such motions shall specifically identify each paper, record, or exhibit that is being requested and/or specifically identify, by subject, date, and department what portion of the proceedings before the trial court is being requested to be transcribed.

**F. COURT REPORTER.**

The sessions of the Appellate Division shall not be reported by a court reporter unless a party so requests at least one week prior to the date set for the hearing.

**G. WAIVER OF FEES AND COSTS.**

Applications for a waiver of fees and costs shall be made pursuant to California Rules of Court 8.818.

**H. APPOINTED COUNSEL IN MISDEMEANOR APPEALS.**

**(1) Right to counsel.**

- (a) A Defendant appealing a misdemeanor conviction, who had appointed counsel at trial or who has otherwise met the standards for appointed counsel, is entitled to appointed counsel on appeal.

**(2) Applications for appointed counsel.**

- (a) A party, meeting the standards, may apply for appointment of counsel either in the trial court or in the Appellate Division pursuant to California Rules of Court 8.851.
- (b) Applications filed in the Appellate Division are decided, without hearing, by the presiding judge.

**(3) List of attorneys.**

- (a) Appointments are made by the Appellate Division from the list of attorneys maintained by the Appellate Division.

**I. FAX FILINGS.**

Fax filings in the Appellate Division will be accepted during normal business hours.

A party may file by fax directly to the Appellate Division. Each document transmitted for fax filing shall contain the phrase “*By Fax*” immediately below the title of the document.

A party who files a signed document by fax represents that the original signed document is in his or her possession or control.

At any time after filing a signed facsimile document, any other party may serve a demand for production of the original physically signed document. The demand shall be served on all other parties but not be filed with the court.

If a demand for production of the original signed document is made, the parties shall arrange a meeting at which the original signed document can be examined.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a signature produced by facsimile transmission is an original.

Filings by fax shall be sent to the following telephone number: 530-251-2115

Filings by fax in the Appellate Division shall be accompanied by *Appeal Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet (LSC-APL-100)*. The cover sheet shall be the first page transmitted. Telephone No and E-Mail Address fields on the cover sheet are deemed required.

If the facsimile filing is not filed by the court because of (1) an error in the transmission of the document to the court which was unknown to the sending party or (2) a failure to process the facsimile filing when received by the court, the sending party may move the court for an order filing the document *nunc pro tunc*. The motion shall be accompanied by the transmission record and a proof of transmission in the following form:

“At the time of transmission I was at least 18 years of age and not a party to this legal proceeding. On (date) \_\_\_\_\_ and (time) \_\_\_\_\_, I transmitted to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court the following documents (name)

\_\_\_\_\_ by facsimile machine, pursuant to local rule. The court’s fax telephone number that I used as (fax telephone number) \_\_\_\_\_. The facsimile machine I used complied with rule 2.301 and no error was reported by the machine. I caused the machine to print a transmission record of the transmission, a copy of which is attached to this declaration.

“I declare under penalty of perjury that under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.”

## J. ELECTRONIC FILINGS.

Electronic filings will be accepted in the Appellate Division during normal business hours.

A party may submit documents for filing electronically to the Appellate Division. Each document transmitted electronically for filing shall contain the phrase "*Electronically Submitted*" immediately below the title of the document.

A party who files a signed document electronically represents that the original signed document is in his or her possession or control.

At any time after filing a signed electronically filed document, any other party may serve a demand for production for the original physically signed document. The demand shall be served on all other parties but not be filed with the court.

If a demand for production of the original signed document is made, the parties shall arrange a meeting at which the original signed document can be examined.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a signature produced by electronic transmission is an original.

Electronic filings shall be sent to the following email address:  
[appellatedivision@lassencourt.ca.gov](mailto:appellatedivision@lassencourt.ca.gov)

Electronic filings shall be accompanied by a cover sheet with the following information:

TO: Appellate Division of the Superior Court  
2610 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Telephone Number: 530-251-8205  
Email Address: [appellatedivision@lassencourt.ca.gov](mailto:appellatedivision@lassencourt.ca.gov)

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS OF  
PARTY MAKING FILING

DATE SUBMITTED  
DOCUMENT SUBMITTED  
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES

Electronically submitted documents will be printed and the filed documents will be placed in the case file.

If a technical problem with respect to a court's electronic filing system precludes the court from accepting an electronic filing during its regular filing hours on a particular court day, and the electronic filer demonstrates that he or she attempted to file on that day, the court must deem the filing received on that day.

**K. ORAL ARGUMENT APPEARANCES BY VIDEOCONFERENCE.**

Whenever hearings for oral argument on appeal have been set, upon request by any party, or on his or her own motion, the presiding judge of the panel may permit appearances of any of the parties and any or all of the judges assigned to the panel to appear by videoconference, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Notice of the time and place of the oral argument will be given to all parties;
- (2) The parties will present oral argument in the venue where the underlying case being appealed was heard;
- (3) Each of the judges assigned to the panel shall participate in person or by videoconference during the entire oral argument hearing;
- (4) The oral argument hearings shall be open to the public in the venue where the place of the oral argument is being heard and in each other venue where one of the judges assigned to the panel is participating by videoconference equipment;
- (5) Notice shall be given to all parties of the location where each participating panel judge will be sitting while participating in the oral argument hearing.

**L. ELECTRONIC RECORDING.**

- (1) **Electronic Recording pursuant to California Rules of Court rule 8.837(d)(6)(A), 8.869(d)(6)(A), or 8.916(d)(6)(A).**

A judicial officer may order that the original of an official electronic recording of the court proceedings, or a copy made by the court, be transmitted to the Appellate Division as the record of oral proceedings in a limited civil, misdemeanor or infraction case without being transcribed and in lieu of correcting appellant's proposed statement on appeal. Such order may be made when the judicial officer determined that this procedure would save court time and resources.

This rule shall apply only if the appellant elects a statement on appeal as the record of oral proceedings pursuant to California Rules of Court rule 8.831(b)(4), 8.864(a)(3), or 8.915(a).

- (2) **Electronic Recording Pursuant to Government Code § 69957.**

Pursuant to Government Code § 69957, certain court proceedings may be electronically recorded when a court reporter is not available. The electronic recording serves as the official record of the proceeding in these instances.

In Cases where an electronic recording serves as the official record, a party may request a copy by completing a *Request for Copy of Electronically Recorded Proceeding* form and submitting the form to the Clerk of the Court at the Hall of Justice, 2610 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130. Pursuant to Government Code § 70631, a fee of \$10 will be charged for each copy requested.

**M. OTHER RULES OF APPEAL.**

Except as modified by this section, the California Rules of Court on Appeals to the Superior Court (commencing with Rule 8.800) apply to the Appellate Division. Any applications involving matters pending before the Appellate Division shall be presented to the designated presiding judge of the assigned panel for the case involved, or, in the absence of such designation, the presiding judge of the Appellate Division.

*(Effective 7/1/04, as amended 7/1/14, 7/1/19, 1/1/23, 7/1/24)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 11**

### **CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ORDERS**

Judicial Council Form CR-160, *Criminal Protective Order-Domestic Violence* under Penal Code section 136.2 and 1203.097(a)(2) and Family Code section 6380, shall be utilized to protect victims of violent crime from all contact by the defendant, or contact, with the intent to annoy, harass, threaten, or commit acts of violence by the defendant.

- A.** The District Attorney's Office shall prepare the CR-160, *Criminal Protective Order-Domestic Violence*, and submit the form to the court for issuance of the order. Law enforcement shall enter the criminal protective order and proof of service into CLETS within one (1) business day from the time of service or receipt from the court.
- B.** The court shall submit proof of service of the Criminal Protective Order to law enforcement within one (1) business day of receipt.
- C.** The court shall make reasonable efforts to determine whether there exists a Criminal Protective Order that involves any party when issuing any orders involving child custody or visitation.
- D.** The court shall make reasonable efforts to determine whether any child custody or visitation orders exist when issuing criminal protective orders and may modify the criminal protective order to allow or restrict contact between the person restrained by the order and his or her children.
- E.** Firearm restrictions and enforcement of the Criminal Protective Order under Penal Code section 136.2 shall apply.

*(Effective 7/1/06, as amended 7/1/11)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 12**

### **CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC), MEDIATION AND SUPERVISED VISITATION**

#### **12.1 CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC)/MEDIATION/ CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS.**

##### **A. CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC)/MEDIATION/ CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS– GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

For purposes of these rules, “Child Custody Recommending Counseling” (CCRC) and “Voluntary Mediation” shall be conducted in accordance with Family Code section 3160 et seq. CCRC shall be conducted when there is a pending family law action before the court and may result in a recommendation to the court. Voluntary Child Custody Mediation may be conducted when there is not a pending family law action before the court. Child custody evaluation shall be defined by California Rules of Court, rule 5.220(c)(3) and Family Code section 3110 et seq., and shall be conducted according to the procedures set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 5.220.

##### **B. MEDIATION WITHOUT PENDING PROCEEDING.**

Parties who do not have a pending family law action before the court may request Voluntary Mediation by completing intake packets with Family Court Services. This service is offered to the public when (1) sufficient time is available on the mediator’s calendar, (2) when Family Court Services has received a completed intake packet from all parties in the case, and (3) when both parties have completed orientation. Failure to come to a complete agreement during Voluntary Mediation shall result in the Mediator making a recommendation to the Court on unresolved topics. If the parties come to a complete agreement during Voluntary Mediation no recommendation to the court will be made

##### **C. REFERRAL TO CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC)/RECOMMENDATIONS – CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION.**

All contested custody and visitation matters shall be referred to CCRC prior to or at a court hearing in order to assist the parties in developing a parenting plan that protects the health, safety, welfare, and best interest of the child. In pending actions before the court, if the parties are unable to reach an agreement during the CCRC session(s), the child custody recommending counselor shall make recommendations to the court on the disputed issues. The recommendation will be marked confidential and will be reviewed and considered by the judge when making an order. The child custody recommending counselor may also make an interim recommendation for a temporary parenting plan pending completion of the custody recommendation.

**D. REFERRAL TO FAMILY COURT SERVICES – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS .**

Temporary domestic violence restraining orders with child custody and visitation issues orders may be referred to Family Court Services.

**E. PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC).**

The child custody recommending counselor shall have the discretion to interview any child involved in a child custody proceeding pending before the court.

**F. SUPPORT PERSONS.**

Pursuant to Family Code section 6303, in cases where a person alleges that they are a victim of violence, he or she shall be advised of and provided the opportunity to have a support person attend CCVC/Voluntary Mediation services with them. The support person must be 18 years of age or older, shall not be the child of either parent, shall not be the attorney for either party, and shall not be a service provider, except a mental health service provider or domestic violence advocate. The support person shall not be present as a legal adviser and shall not give legal advice. The support person is present to provide emotional support to the victim. A child custody recommending counselor/mediator may exclude a support person pursuant to Family Code section 6303(c), if the support person participates or acts as an advocate or is disruptive or disrupts the process of CCRC/Voluntary Mediation. The support person is required to sign a Family Court Services' Statement of Understanding agreeing to keep the CCRC/Voluntary Mediation confidential.

**G. INTERPRETERS IN CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC).**

If an interpreter is needed for CCRC/Voluntary Mediation, a neutral person who is fluent in both English and the non-English speaking party's native language must accompany them to CCRC/Voluntary Mediation. An adult family member may only act as an interpreter when appropriate interpreters are not available. In no case may a child of the parties serve as an interpreter.

**H. CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS.**

Any case in which custody or visitation remains in dispute after completion of CCRC, the court may appoint a child custody evaluator to conduct a child custody evaluation in cases where the court determines it is in the best interests of the child(ren). The evaluation shall be referred to a Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluator who meets the requirements of Family Code section 3110.5. The court may order a full or partial evaluation as defined in California Rules of Court, rules 5.220(c)(4) and (5). The parties

may be charged a fee for the evaluation through Lassen Superior Court. The Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluator shall file with the court a written confidential report pursuant to Family Code section 3111, Family Code section 3118, Evidence Code section 730, and/or Chapter 15, Code of Civil Procedure section 2032.010 et seq.

**(1)** Pursuant to California Rules of Court 5.230(f), the Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluator shall provide a declaration of completion of 12 hours of advanced domestic violence training and four (4) hour update training in domestic violence by attachment to the FL-325, *Declaration of Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluator Regarding Qualification*, filed annually with the court.

**I. WITHDRAWAL FROM A CASE.**

A Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluator may, upon a showing of good cause before the court, withdraw from a case.

**J. EX PARTE COMMUNICATION.**

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 5.235(b)(2), ex parte communication is defined as a direct or indirect communication on the substance of a pending case without the knowledge, presence, or consent of all parties involved in the matter. Ex parte communication is prohibited between the court-connected or court appointed child custody recommending counselors /evaluators/mediator and any party, the attorney for any party, a court-appointed counsel for a child, or the court, unless:

- (a)** Authorized by the court;
- (b)** to schedule appointments;
- (c)** address a case involving allegations of domestic violence including informing the court of the necessity of a restraining order to prevent an imminent risk to the safety of the child or party; carry out the responsibilities child custody recommending counselors/evaluators/mediators may have as mandated reporters or to warn;
- (d)** to provide an interview to a court-appointed counsel for a child;
- (e)** to allow child custody recommending counselors/ evaluators/mediators to investigate or disclose an actual or potential conflict of interest or dual relationship; and/or
- (f)** to address complaints.

Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the child custody evaluator from contacting either party during the course of a child custody evaluation to fulfill the requirements of California Rules of Court 5.220.

Any documents/information provided by one party and/or that party's attorney to the child custody recommending counselor/evaluator/mediator must also be provided to the other party and/or their attorney(s). A proof of service form stating that the other party was provided with copies of any information must be submitted to Family Court Services with all documents served on the other party before review by the child custody recommending counselor/evaluator/mediator.

**K. CONFIDENTIALITY OF FAMILY COURT SERVICES PROCEEDINGS.**

**(1) In any family law proceeding involving the custody or visitation of minor children, any written report or recommendation from the child custody recommending counselor or child custody evaluator shall be confidential and unavailable to any person except the court, the parties, their attorneys, expert witnesses and any person to whom the court expressly grants access.**

- (a) Pursuant to Family Code section 3111(d), if the court determines that an unwarranted disclosure of a written confidential report has been made, the court may impose a monetary sanction against the disclosing party.**
- (b) Pursuant to Family Code section 3177, Family Court CRC/Voluntary Mediation shall be held in private and shall be confidential. All communications, verbal or written, from the parties to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor/Mediator made in the proceedings are official information within the meaning of Evidence Code section 1040. The CCRC/Voluntary Mediation file is confidential.**
- (c) If the case is referred for an evaluation/investigation by the court, the court-connected child custody evaluator and/or court investigator shall have access to the CCRC/Voluntary Mediation file.**

**(2) Exceptions to confidentiality:**

- (a) Nothing in this section shall prevent Family Court Services staff from disclosing the existence of another court case involving the children at issue or their parents, stepparents, or legal guardians for purposes of coordinating court hearings and delivery of services.**
- (b) Nothing in this section shall restrict Family Court Services staff from complying with any law requiring reporting of child abuse and the fact that a report was made or exists shall not be deemed confidential.**

(c) The fact that CCRC/Voluntary Mediation took place, the time and place of that session, and the identities of participants shall not be deemed confidential in a joint CCRC/Voluntary Mediation session. If a separate CCRC/Voluntary Mediation session has occurred due to a history of violence between the parties, the date and time of that session shall be deemed confidential and parties are cautioned not to inform the other party of the date and time set.

The fact that an agreement was or was not reached and the contents of any signed, endorsed-filed agreement and/or order resulting from a CCRC/Voluntary Mediation session shall not be deemed confidential.

## **L. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.**

All complaints raised in connection with Family Court Services shall be submitted in writing to the Court Executive Officer for review and investigation if appropriate. All complaints will receive a response in writing. The complaint forms shall be available to the public at the court's filing office.

Any request for a change of Child Custody Recommending Counselor or any complaints relating to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor should be addressed to, and must be received by, the Court Executive Officer no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Child Custody Recommending Counseling session. Requests or complaints received after this time frame will not be considered.

All information contained in the complaint form will be made available to all parties and the Child Custody Recommending Counselor involved in the case.

The Court Executive Officer will issue a written response to a complaint relating to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the complaint.

## **M. TIMELY ATTENDANCE, CANCELLATION AND SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND OR LATE CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENT.**

(a) **Timely Attendance.** The date and time for Child Custody Recommending Counseling (CCRC) or Mediation will be set by the court. The CCRC/Mediation appointment shall be considered a court date at which the parties are required to appear. All parties must attend their scheduled CCRC/Mediation appointment on time. Failure to attend at the scheduled date and time may result in the imposition of a sanction of \$100.00 on the absent party.

(b) **Cancellation of Appointments.** If an agreement is reached prior to the scheduled CCRC/Mediation appointment, both parties and/or their attorneys must contact Family Court Services to cancel the appointment and advise that an agreement has

been reached. Notification must be provided no less than 48 hours before the scheduled appointment. Failure to notify the Court within this timeframe may result in a sanction of \$100.00 imposed on each party for failing to attend the scheduled appointment.

- (c) **Exigent Circumstances.** If an exigent circumstance arises preventing a party from attending the scheduled appointment, that party must contact Family Court Services and the other parent no later than 4:00 PM on the day before the scheduled appointment, providing an explanation and requesting to reschedule. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in sanctions.
- (d) **Payment of Sanctions.** Any sanctions imposed for failure to appear or cancel as detailed herein must be remitted to the court before another appointment will be scheduled. Fee waivers do not apply to sanctions imposed for failure to comply with this rule.

*(Effective 1/1/08, as amended: 1/1/13, 1/1/15, 7/1/19, 1/1/23, 7/1/23, 1/1/25)*

## **12.2 SUPERVISED VISITATION.**

### **A. DEFINITION.**

Contact between a non-custodial parent and one or more children in the presence of a neutral third person.

### **B. PURPOSE.**

A supervised visitation monitor may be ordered in child custody cases to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the child(ren) while allowing the non-custodial party access to their child(ren) in a secure environment.

### **C. UNIFORM STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR PROVIDERS OF SUPERVISED VISITATION.**

The standards of practice apply to all providers of supervised visitation, whether a nonprofessional provider or a professional provider. The court considers whether to use a professional or nonprofessional provider based upon the child's best interest. The professional and the nonprofessional provider must comply with and meet specific qualifications specified in Family Code section 3200.5

The Uniform Standards of Practice can be found in its entirety in the California Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration, Section 5.20.

### **D. TYPE OF PROVIDER.**

- (1) **Nonprofessional Provider:** is a person who is not paid for providing supervised visitation services.
- (2) **Professional Provider:** is any person who is paid for providing supervised visitation services, or an independent contractor, employee, intern, or volunteer operating independently or through a supervised visitation center or agency.

**E. NON-PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISED PROVIDERS' REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) Before supervising a visitation, nonprofessional providers must sign and file with the court Judicial Council Form FL-324(NP), *Declaration of Supervised Visitation Provider (Nonprofessional)* stating that they have met all requirements to be a nonprofessional provider.
- (2) Completed declaration forms may be submitted by mail or at the Clerk's window at the Hall of Justice, 2610 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.
- (3) Nonprofessional providers are required to review *Supervised Visitation - A Guide for Non-Professional Providers* published by the Judicial Council.

**F. PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISED VISITATION PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) A professional provider must complete a Live Scan, register as a Trustline provider, meet specific training requirements (California Rules of Court 5.20 (f)), and file a completed Judicial Council Form FL-324(P), *Declaration of Supervised Visitation Provider (Professional)* form with the court before providing supervised visitation services.
- (2) The professional provider must sign a separate, updated form FL-324(P) each time the professional provider submits a report to the court.
- (3) When any information contained in the *Declaration of Supervised Visitation Provider* has changed, the provider must serve an updated version on all parties, their attorneys, and the child's attorney, and then file with the court within five days of the change in information.
- (4) Completed declaration forms may be submitted by mail or at the Clerk's window at the Hall of Justice, 2610 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.
- (5) The professional provider must produce a report about the supervised visitation if ordered by the court or when a parent or attorney requests it or an attorney for the child. Providers should send copies to all parties, their attorneys, and the attorney for the child.

**G. DUTIES OF PARTIES AND PROVIDERS.**

- (1)** The court does not screen, endorse, evaluate, or monitor supervised visitation service providers. The parties must investigate and know that a professional or nonprofessional provider meets the statutory qualifications, training, and continuing education requirements.
- (2)** In the event a provider becomes ineligible to provide services for any reason, the provider must immediately contact all parties, their attorneys, and the child's attorney, and must state, in writing, the reasons the provider is no longer eligible. Within five days of receipt of the provider's written notice of ineligibility, the parties must file with the court a declaration containing all pertinent information related to the provider's disqualification.

*(Effective 7/1/22, renumbered 1/1/23)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 13**

### **STANDARDS FOR COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL FOR MINOR CHILDREN IN FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS**

#### **A. PURPOSE OF APPOINTMENT AS COUNSEL FOR A CHILD IN FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS.**

Pursuant to Family Code section 3150(a), if the court determines that it would be in the best interest of the minor child, the court may appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.

#### **B. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT.**

**To be eligible for appointment as counsel for a child, counsel must:**

- (1) Be an active member in good standing of the State Bar of California;
- (2) Have professional liability insurance or demonstrate to the court that he or she is adequately self-insured; and
- (3) Meet the education, experience, and continuing education requirements of this rule.

#### **C. EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) **Education.** Prior to appointment as counsel for a child in a family law proceeding, counsel must have completed within one (1) year prior to submitting a statement of compliance at least 12 hours of applicable education and training which must include all of the following subjects:
  - (a) Statutes, rules of court, and case law relating to child custody and visitation litigation;
  - (b) Representation of a child in custody and visitation proceedings; and
  - (c) Stages of child development; communicating with children at various stages of development; recognizing and understanding the effects of child abuse, neglect, and family violence on children; and how to work effectively with multidisciplinary experts.

No more than six (6) hours of the initial training may be self-verified self-study education. The attorney's own record of self-study must include, as appropriate, the titles

and providers of material used, the amount of hours claimed for the education activities, and the dates on which the attorney engaged in the activities.

**(2) Experience.** Court appointed counsel for minor children under this rule must have represented a party or a child in at least six (6) proceedings involving child custody within the preceding five (5) years as follows:

**(a)** At least two (2) of the six (6) proceedings must have involved contested child custody and visitation issues in family law; and

**(b)** No more than three (3) of the six (6) proceedings can involve child custody proceedings in dependency or guardianship cases.

**(3) Continuing education.** Court appointed counsel for minor children under this rule must complete during each calendar year a minimum of eight (8) hours of applicable education and training of the subjects listed in California Rules of Court, rule 5.242(c).

**(4) Compliance with appointment requirements.**

**(a)** Prior to becoming eligible for appointment as counsel for minor children, attorneys satisfying the preliminary educational and experience requirements must submit to the court a statement of compliance in the form of a declaration indicating compliance with the requirements of this rule. Counsel must use form FL-322, *Declaration of Counsel for a Child Regarding Qualifications* for this purpose.

**(b)** On or before February 28 on the third year after the year in which the attorney is first certified and then every third year thereafter, attorneys eligible for family law appointment must submit a new statement of compliance. The new statement of compliance must include a statement that the attorney has completed an annual minimum of eight (8) hours per year of applicable education and training. Form FL-322, *Declaration of Counsel for a Child Regarding Qualifications*, must be used for the purpose of submitting a new statement of compliance. As evidence of completing the minimum of eight (8) hours per year of continuing education required by this rule, the attorney shall attach certificates of completion to the new statement of compliance. Certificates of completion must include the name of the courses, course descriptions, where courses were offered, number of hours of training attended, dates of the training, and the names of the training providers.

**(c)** The court will maintain and make available to the public a list of those attorneys who have submitted a statement of compliance from which counsel will be appointed, and shall appoint counsel from said list. The list must contain the name, address, telephone number of the attorney, and the date of

receipt of the attorney's statement of compliance. Attorneys failing to timely submit a statement of compliance with continuing education requirements by February 28<sup>th</sup> of the year in which it is due will be notified by the court that he or she will be decertified. The attorney shall be permitted to have 20 days from the day of mailing of the notice to submit evidence of his or her completion of the required training or education. If the attorney fails to submit the required evidence, the attorney will be removed from the eligibility list maintained by the court

#### **D. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNSEL FOR A CHILD.**

- (1) Rights.** Counsel representing a child has rights relating to the representation of a child's best interest under Family Code sections 3111, 3151, 3151.5, 3153, and Welfare and Institutions Code section 827.
- (2) Responsibilities of counsel for a child.** Counsel representing a child is charged with representing the best interest of the child. The role of the child's counsel is to gather evidence that bear on the best interest of the child and to present that admissible evidence, in addition to the child's wishes if the child so desires, to the court in any manner deemed appropriate by the child's counsel. Counsel's duties include those under Family Code section 3151(a)-(b) and California Rules of Court, rule 5.242:
  - (a)** Interviewing the child;
  - (b)** Reviewing the court files and all accessible relevant records available to both parties;
  - (c)** Making any further investigations that counsel considers necessary to ascertain the evidence relevant to the custody or visitation hearings;
  - (d)** Participating in the proceeding to the degree necessary to adequately represent the child; and
  - (e)** If the child is called to testify in the proceeding:
    - (i)** Allowing the child to state a preference regarding custody or visitation, informing the parties about the child's desire to provide input, and establishing procedures in furtherance of the child's participation;
    - (ii)** Appropriately advising the child about the court process, including confidentiality limitations and the possibility of a court record of the testimony which may be provided to other parties.

*(Effective 1/1/09, as amended 1/1/13)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 14**

### **QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED OF COUNSEL APPOINTED BY THE COURT IN GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP PROCEEDINGS**

#### **A. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

Each counsel in private practice appointed by the court to represent a minor in a guardianship proceeding and each counsel in private practice appointed by the court to represent a conservatee or proposed conservatee in a conservatorship proceeding must be an active member of the State Bar of California for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the date of appointment. Counsel must have no disciplinary proceedings pending, and no discipline imposed, within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of the first availability for appointment.

Private counsel must be covered by professional liability insurance satisfactory to the court in the amount of at least \$100,000 per claim and \$300,000 per year.

#### **B. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT.**

- (1)** Appointments to represent minors in a guardianship proceeding. Counsel may qualify to represent minors in a probate guardianship proceeding if the following requirements are met:
  - (a)** Within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of first availability for appointment, counsel has represented at least: three (3) wards or proposed wards in probate guardianships, three (3) children in juvenile court dependency or delinquency proceedings, or three (3) children in custody proceedings under the Family Code.

OR

- (b)** Qualifying for appointments to represent minor children in juvenile dependency proceedings under this court's Local Rule 3 or qualifying for appointments to represent children in custody proceedings under California Rules of Court, Rule 5.242 and this court's Local Rule 13.

Except as provided in section B(3) of this rule, counsel qualifying for appointment in probate guardianship proceedings under section B(1)(b) of this rule must satisfy the continuing education requirements under this rule as well as the continuing education rules for representing children in juvenile dependency proceedings or for representing children in family law proceedings under Local Rule 13.

(2) Appointments to represent conservatees or proposed conservatees in a conservatorship proceeding. Counsel in private practice may qualify to represent conservatees or proposed conservatees in conservatorship proceedings if, within five (5) years immediately preceding the date of first availability for appointment, if the following requirements are met:

(a) Counsel has represented at least three (3) conservatees or proposed conservatees in either probate or Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatorships.

OR

(b) Completed any three (3) of the following five (5) tasks:

- (i) Represented petitioners for the appointment of a conservator in at least three (3) probate conservatorship proceedings, with representation commencing upon initial contact with the petitioner through the hearing and issuance of letters of conservatorship;
- (ii) Represented a petitioner, a conservatee or a proposed conservatee, or an interested third party in at least two (2) contested probate or LPS conservatorship matters. A contested matter that qualifies under this item and also qualifies under (i) may be applied toward satisfaction of both items;
- (iii) Represented a party for whom the court could appoint legal counsel in at least three (3) matters described in Probate Code sections 1470, 1471, 1954, 2356.5, 2357, 2620.2, 3140, or 3205;
- (iv) Represented fiduciaries in the settlement of a court-filed account and report in at least three (3) separate cases involving any combination of probate conservatorships or guardianships, decedent's estates, or trust proceedings under division 9 of the Probate Code, and in which said representation continued through filing, hearing, and settlement of the case; or
- (v) Prepared at least five (5) wills or trusts, five (5) durable powers of attorney for health care, and five (5) durable powers of attorney for asset management.

(3) Optional waiver of qualifications under this section. This court, as a court with fewer than four (4) authorized judges, reserves the right to waive the qualification requirements in A and B of this section in accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 7.1101(e)(1).

**C. CONTINUING EDUCATION.**

- (1) Except as provided in section B(1) of this rule, counsel appointed by the court must complete three (3) hours of education each calendar year which qualify for mandatory continuing legal education credit required by the State Bar for attorneys certified as specialists in estate planning, trust, and probate law.
- (2) Counsel who are qualified to represent minors in probate guardianship proceedings under section B(1)(b) of this rule, and who are appointed to represent minors in guardianships of the person only, may satisfy the continuing education requirements of this rule by satisfying the continuing education requirements for representing children in juvenile dependency proceedings under this court's Local Rule 3 or by satisfying the continuing education requirements for representing children in custody proceedings under this court's Local Rule 13.

**D. CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION.**

Each counsel must certify to the court that he or she is qualified for appointment prior to establishing eligibility for appointment under this rule. Each appointed counsel must certify to the court before March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year that he or she has completed the required continuing education for the preceding calendar year. Certifications required under this subdivision must be submitted to the court, but will not be filed or lodged in a case file. Judicial Council Form GC-010, *Certification of Attorney Concerning Qualifications for Court Appointment in Conservatorships/Guardianships*, must be used for satisfying the requirement of this rule.

*(Effective 7/1/09, as amended 1/1/13)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 15**

### **COURT SECURITY, CONDUCT AND COMPLAINT PROCESS**

#### **15.1 SECURITY.**

Security relating to all matters in all courtrooms, facilities, and grounds of the Lassen Superior Court shall be maintained by the Lassen County Sheriff following the established security plan.

*(Effective 7/1/22, as amended 7/1/24)*

#### **15.2 WEAPONS IN COURT FACILITIES WITH PENAL CODE SECTION 171b.**

- (a)** All persons are required to comply with Penal Code Section 171b. No person shall bring or possess any weapon as defined in Penal Code Section 171b into a court facility. Exceptions are:
  - 1.** Weapons possessed or in transport to be used as evidence in a court of law with picture identification and appropriate proof. Weapons that can be locked must have locks on them.
  - 2.** Weapons possessed by Peace Officers carrying out official duties who are uniformed or non-uniformed.
- (b)** Peace Officers who are not parties to any court proceeding and who wish to bring weapons into any courtroom shall identify themselves to the Courtroom Bailiff and obtain permission from the bailiff to bring the weapon into the Courtroom.
- (c)** No person (including Peace Officers) shall carry a weapon into any Court facility when appearing in Court in which they are a party to the case.

*(Effective 7/1/22, as amended 7/1/24)*

#### **15.3 DRESS POLICY.**

All persons who appear in any courtroom shall dress appropriately. The bailiff on duty, under the supervision of the Judge presiding in that courtroom, has the authority to enforce this rule and exclude persons with inappropriate attire from entering the courtroom.

*(Effective 7/1/22)*

#### **15.4 RESTRICTED AREAS.**

- (a) The workstations for courtroom clerks and all judges' benches and chambers are reserved for the exclusive use of the court staff. Everyone else is prohibited from entrance into these areas unless directed to enter by court personnel.
- (b) Court staff shall be responsible for enforcing these rules by requesting anyone other than court personnel to leave any restricted area. Bailiffs may remove individuals who violate this directive and report violations to the Presiding Judge.

*(Effective 7/1/22)*

#### **15.5 RECORDING EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED.**

- (a) Prohibited Activities. Photographing, videotaping, televising, or otherwise recording any court proceeding is prohibited unless a written request has been filed and approved by the Judge presiding at the proceeding prior to the commencement of the proceeding. No one may use a camera, camera-phone, or electronic device with a camera to transmit, record, or take pictures in any portion of the courthouse except as permitted by these rules and California Rules of Court 1.150.
- (b) Members of the Media. Members of the media shall meet with the Court Executive Officer, or his or her designee, prior to operating media equipment in common areas of the courthouse.
- (c) Prohibition Against Visual Displays, Banners, Flags, Photographs. No person present at a court proceeding may display any buttons, flags, signs, images, or otherwise, that might prejudice the court or jury or undermine the security or decorum of the proceeding. The bailiff on duty, under the supervision of the Judge, shall have the authority to enforce these rules.

*(Effective 7/1/22)*

#### **15.6 USE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

All computers and electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, and personal digital assistants shall be turned off before entering the courtroom. If a laptop computer or electronic device is necessary for a matter at issue, it may be used only if expressly authorized by the sitting judge at the hearing. An electronic device shall not be handled in any way as to indicate a picture, audio or video recording is being taken. Enforcement is in the sole discretion of the sitting judge. Violators are subject to contempt of court and/or confiscation of the computer or device.

*(Effective 7/1/22)*

## 15.7 BIAS INFORMAL COMPLAINT POLICY.

(a) **General.** To preserve the integrity and impartiality of the judicial system, the Court shall:

1. **Ensure fairness.** Ensure that courtroom proceedings are conducted in a manner that is fair and impartial to all of the participants.
2. **Refrain from and prohibit biased conduct.** In all courtroom proceedings, refrain from engaging in conduct and prohibit others from engaging in conduct that exhibits bias based on race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, age, gender, or sexual orientation, including whether that bias is directed toward counsel, court personnel, witnesses, parties, jurors, or any other participants.

(b) **Notice of Concern Process.** If an individual has a concern about compliance with the mandates set forth above in subsection (a) by the Court or by any courtroom participant, then:

1. The individual may submit a written Notice of Concern to the Presiding Judge or Court Executive Officer, which identifies all courtroom participants and the specific behavior or conduct occurring in the courtroom of concern;
2. The intent of the Notice of Concern procedure is to educate all parties with the purpose of ameliorating the concern rather than disciplining the person who is the subject of the notice;
3. To the extent possible and unless disclosure is required by law, the Court shall protect the confidentiality of the noticing party, the person who is the subject of the notice, and other interested persons;
4. The focus of this Local Rule is on incidents of concern:
  - (i) Bias based on race, religion ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, age, gender, or sexual orientation;
  - (ii) Whether that bias is directed toward counsel, court personnel, witnesses, parties, jurors, or any other participants; and
  - (iii) Where the incident does not warrant discipline but requires education and correction.
5. Courtroom activities constituting legitimate advocacy when matters of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, age, gender,

or sexual orientation which are relevant to issues in the courtroom proceeding are exempt from this Notice of Concern procedure.

**(c) Formal Complaint Process**

1. With respect to any incident that if substantiated would warrant discipline against a judge, the concerned individual may file a formal complaint with the Commission on Judicial Performance;
2. Nothing in this procedure in any way shall limit the ability of any person to submit a formal complaint of misconduct regarding any courtroom participant to the Commission on Judicial Performance or the appropriate disciplinary body.
3. A formal complaint about a courtroom participant should be sent as follows:
  - (i) A Superior Court Judge  
TO: The Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP)  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Website: [https://cjp.ca.gov/file\\_a\\_complaint/](https://cjp.ca.gov/file_a_complaint/)
  - (ii) A Superior Court Commissioner or Court Executive Officer  
TO: Presiding Judge  
Lassen Superior Court  
2610 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, California 96130
  - (iii) A Member of Court Staff or Court Contractor  
TO: Court Executive Officer  
Lassen Superior Court  
2610 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, California 96130
  - (iv) An Attorney  
TO: State Bar of California  
100 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California 94105  
Website: [www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Complaints-Claims](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Complaints-Claims)
  - (v) A Courtroom Bailiff  
TO: Lassen County Sheriff's Office  
1415 Sheriff Cady Lane  
Susanville, California 96130

Superior Court of California, County of Lassen

*(Effective 7/1/22, as amended 1/1/24)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 16**

### **PRIVATELY RETAINED OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER PRO TEMPORE**

**A. PURPOSE.** A party has the right to arrange, at the party's own expense, for the services of a court reporter if the services of an official court reporter are not available for a proceeding. (Government Code Section 68086 and California Rules of Court, rule 2.956). This document established the policy for a party arranging for a privately retained court reporter when an official court reporter is not available and established requirements for qualifying as an official reporter pro tempore.

**B. APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY.** This policy applies to hearings and trials in the Civil, Family, and Probate Divisions in unlimited civil matters, limited civil matters to the extent not electronically recorded, and probate matters. Court reporters will be provided by the Court in all mandated proceedings, including in the following cases: criminal – felony; juvenile dependency; juvenile delinquency; and family law matters where an official court reporter is mandated, such as requests to withdraw consent to an adoption, child testimony in chambers, and petitions to free a minor from parental care and control.

**C. POLICY.**

- (1)** If the services of an official court reporter are not available for a proceeding, a party may privately arrange for court reporter services at the party's own expense, pursuant to Government Code Section 68086 and California Rules of Court, rule 2.956.
- (2)** A party must make arrangements for a privately retained court reporter in advance of the proceeding if the party wishes the proceedings to be reported. Parties retaining a reporter must file form LSC-MIS-200, *Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore* with the court at least 5 days prior to the hearing unless the Court orders otherwise. If the judicial officer has not received the Request in time to approve it before the hearing, the Court has the discretion to deny the request.
  - (a)** When a party arranges for a reporter, the reporter must be appointed as an official reporter pro tempore before the hearing begins. Every reporter must complete and sign sections 1, 2, and 3 of the LSC-MIS-200, *Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore*.
  - (b)** The Judicial Officer must sign the order appointing the reporter as an official reporter pro tempore, using the LSC-MIS-200, *Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore*, before the reporter may report the proceeding.

(3) By signing the *Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore*, the reporter agrees to the following:

- (a) The reporter has a valid, current California Certified Shorthand Reporter License and is in good standing with the Court Reporters Board of California.
- (b) The reporter is not a current full-time employee of the court and appointment as an Official Reporter Pro Tempore will not interfere with the reporter's obligations as a court employee.
- (c) The reporter will provide current contact information with the court.
- (d) All fees for reporting services, including appearance, transcript, and real-time fees, are the responsibility of the party or parties who arranged for the reporter services and may not be charged to the court.
- (e) The reporter will comply with statutes and rules applicable to official reporters pro tempore, including the duty to timely prepare transcripts, including those for appeals, in the proper form.
- (f) The reporter will demonstrate the highest standards of ethics and impartiality in the performance of his/her duties.
- (g) The reporter will comply with the court's requirements regarding uploading electronic archiving of notes within 48 hours of the date of the proceedings except in extenuating circumstances and is approved in advance by the Operations Supervisor or make other arrangements if the only notes are in paper form.
- (h) The reporter will follow directions from the court and will be subject to the jurisdiction of the court to the same extent as an official reporter.
- (i) The reporter will be available for read-back of notes taken during a jury trial within 30 minutes of the court's request.
- (j) If providing real-time reporting or other litigation support services, the reporter is responsible for providing and connecting the necessary equipment.

(4) Additional Information for Parties and Reporters

- (a) **Only One Official Record.** There can be only one official record of court proceedings, and only a reporter appointed by the court may report a court proceeding. (Code of Civil Procedure Section 273; Government Code Sections 70043 and 70044; *Redwing v. Moncravie* (1934) 138 Cal. App. 432,434.) Only one reporter will be allowed to report a court proceeding at

any given time. If the parties cannot agree on a reporter, the judicial officer will make the selection. The transcript may not be modified except on court order.

**(b) Payment for Official Reporter Pro Tempore Services.** The party arranging for an official reporter pro tempore is responsible for paying the reporter's fees, although the parties may arrange to share the fees at terms the parties negotiate. (California Rules of Court, rule 2.956(c).) All fees must be paid directly to the court reporter.

**(c) Transcripts.**

- (i)** The judicial officer may order any party who arranges for the transcription of proceedings by the official reporter pro tempore to lodge a copy of the transcript with the court. (Code of Civil Procedure Section 128(a).)
- (ii)** Transcripts produced by an official reporter pro tempore will be treated, for court purposes, identically to transcripts prepared by official reporters. Reporting notes of an official reporter pro tempore are official records of the court. (Government Code Section 69955(a).) The notes of an official reporter pro tempore, when transcribed and certified, are *prima facie* evidence of the testimony and proceedings. (Code of Civil Procedure Section 273(a).)
- (iii)** Certified transcripts are admissible as evidence to the extent otherwise permitted by law. Transcripts prepared by a privately retained certified shorthand reporter appointed by the court as an official reporter pro tempore are admissible as evidence to the extent otherwise permitted by law. (Code of Civil Procedure Section 273(a).)

*(Effective 7/1/22)*

**RULE OF COURT NO. 17**

**FACSIMILE (FAX) FILING**

**17.1 CIVIL, PROBATE, AND FAMILY LAW FAX FILING.**

- (a) The Lassen Superior Court hereby adopts rule 2.300 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, allowing for the facsimile filing of civil, probate, and family law documents.
- (b) A party may file by fax directly with the court using the facsimile number(s) which are available on the court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

The first sheet transmitted shall be the Judicial Council *Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet* (form MC-005.) Notwithstanding a Fee Waiver, credit card information must be included on the cover sheet including the 3 or 4 digit security code. For purposes of facsimile filings in this court, the Telephone No and E-Mail Address fields on the cover sheet are deemed required. All applicable fees will be charged to the credit card provided on the cover sheet.

- (c) Documents received by the court on or before 4:00 PM PST, on a court business day, will be file stamped with the court date received. Documents received after 4:00 PM PST will be file stamped received the following court business day.

A filing is considered to be received at the time the last page of the document is received.

- (d) In addition to other fees imposed by law, a party filing by fax directly with the court shall pay a fee of \$1.00 for each page of the paper.
- (e) If the credit/debit card issuing company rejects the charge, the court may call the filing party to seek alternate payment and/or mail a Notice of Return. If a document is rejected for filing due to missing or partial pages, facial defects, or other reasons, the entire document must be re-submitted, including the cover sheet. The court may call to notify the filing party of the rejection and/or mail a Notice of Return.
- (f) Upon approval and acceptance of the filing, a receipt of payment will be delivered to the e-mail address in the upper section of the JC Form MC-005. Confirmation of receipt beyond that given by the standard confirmation option of the filing party's fax machine is not provided.

If return of a conformed copy of the filed document(s) is required, you may add this request on the JC Form MC-005. The court will add the applicable processing and/or mailing fees.

(Effective 1/1/23)

**17.2 JUVENILE DEPENDENCY FAX FILING.**

- (a)** The Lassen Superior Court hereby adopts rule 5.522 of the California Rules of Court, allowing certain persons and agencies to file specified Juvenile Dependency documents by facsimile filing with the court.
- (b)** Those persons and agencies as defined in Rule 5.522(c) CRC may file by fax directly with the court using the Juvenile facsimile number(s) which are available on the court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).

Each document must be accompanied by Judicial Council form *Facsimile Filing Cover Sheet – Juvenile (JV-520)*, which shall be the first page transmitted.

- (c)** Documents received by the court on or before 4:00 PM PST, on a court business day, will be file stamped with the court date received. Documents received after 4:00 PM PST will be file stamped received the following court business day.

A filing is considered to be received at the time the last page of the document is received.

(Effective 1/1/23)

**RULE OF COURT NO. 18**  
**ELECTRONIC FILING**

**18.1 PILOT PROJECT – LIMITED eDELIVERY FILINGS.**

To enable the Court to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of instituting direct electronic filing of court documents, a pilot project permitting the limited filing of documents under certain conditions will be allowed. Any electronic filing other than that as authorized by Rule 18.1 will be rejected and will not be accepted by the Clerk.

- (a)** In the initial phase of this pilot project, filings will be accepted from the Lassen County Department of Child Support Services and as applicable to the processes outlined in Rules 1(V) and 10(J).
- (b)** A pilot project participant may electronically deliver (eDeliver) filings to the court by using the processes and procedures available on the court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).
- (c)** Upon receipt of an eDelivered document, the court will promptly send a confirmation of receipt of the document indicating the date and time of receipt to the party or person who submitted the document.
- (d)** If the document received complies with filing requirements and all required filing fees have been paid, the court will send confirmation that the document has been filed to the party or person who submitted the document.
- (e)** If the clerk of the court does not file a document received by the court because the document does not comply with applicable filing requirements or the required filing fee has not been paid, the court will send notice of the rejection of the document for filing to the party or person who submitted the document. The notice of rejection will state the reasons that the document was rejected for filing and include the date the clerk of the court sent the notice.

*(Effective 7/1/23)*

## **RULE OF COURT NO. 19**

### **GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

These rules detail certain general, procedural, judicial, and administrative rules of the Lassen Superior Court.

#### **19.1 AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE.**

**General responsibilities.** With the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, the Presiding Judge is responsible for leading the court, establishing policies, and allocating resources in a manner that promotes access to justice for all members of the public, provides a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, maximizes the uses of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public. The Presiding Judge is responsible for:

- (a)** Ensuring the effective management and administration of the court, consistent with any rules, policies, strategic plan, or budget adopted by the Judicial Council or the court;
- (b)** Ensuring that the duties of all judges specified under California Rules of Court, Rule 10.608 are timely and orderly performed; and
- (c)** Ensuring that the court has adopted written policies and procedures allowing the Presiding Judge to perform efficiently the administrative duties of that office.

**Authority.** The Presiding Judge has the authority to:

- (a)** Assign judges to departments and designate supervising judges for divisions, districts, or branch courts;
- (b)** Apportion the business of the court, including assigning and reassigning cases to departments;
- (c)** Call meetings of the judges;
- (d)** Appoint standing and special committees of judges;
- (e)** Act as the spokesperson for the court;
- (f)** Authorize and direct expenditures from the court's Trial Court Operating Fund; and
- (g)** Perform all acts necessary to accomplish the duties specified by the rules of court.

No local rule or policy may limit the authority of the Presiding Judge as granted in the Rules of Court.

**Duties.** The Presiding Judge has the duty to:

- (h) Make all judicial assignments;
- (i) Adopt a process for judicial schedules;
- (j) Supervise and monitor submitted cases;
- (k) Provide oversight of judicial officers;
- (l) Provide general direction and supervisions of the Court Executive Officer;
- (m) Engage in budget and financial management;
- (n) Schedule and assign judicial meetings and committees;
- (o) Act as liaison;
- (p) Participate in court planning;
- (q) Ensure that appellate records are prepared timely; and
- (r) Prepare local rules.

**Delegation.** The Presiding Judge may delegate any of the specific duties listed in this rule to another judge, or if the duty does not require the exercise of judicial authority, to the Court Executive Office.

*(Effective 7/1/24)*

## **19.2 JUDICIAL TIME OFF.**

The Court Executive Officer is designated as the responsible party for recording judicial officer time off. The Court Executive Officer shall inform the Presiding Judge of any time off conflicts or scheduled time off that is inconsistent with the orderly operation of the court.

- (a) **Vacation.** A day of vacation for a judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Lassen, is a pre-approved absence from the court for one full normal scheduled court business day. The performance by a judge of a judicial duty taking two hours or less on a pre-approved vacation day does not entitle the judge to an additional day of vacation. Other absences from the court listed in California Rules of Court, Rule 10.603(c)(2)(H) are excluded from this definition.

The total number of vacation days allowable pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.603(c)(2)(E) will be determined on January 1 of the year in which the vacation is given. Judges who reach milestones in their years of service will receive their additional vacation days as of January 1 of each calendar year. (*Example: Where the 14-year anniversary falls on August 7, 2023, thirty days of vacation would be allowed effective January 1, 2024.*) Vacation will be determined as follows:

- (i) 24 days for judges with less than 7 years of service as a California judge;
- (ii) 27 days for judges with at least 7 but not less than 14 years of service as a California judge; and
- (iii) 30 days for judges with 14 or more years of service as a California judge.

Retiring judges will be prorated according to the month in which they retire.

New judges will be prorated according to the month in which the oath of office was taken, determined as follows: January, 24 days; February, 22 days; March, 20 days; April, 18 days; May, 16 days; June, 14 days; July, 12 days; August, 10 days; September, 8 days; October, 6 days; November, 4 days; and December, 2 days.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.603(c)(2)(G) a judge may not carry forward more than 30 vacation days from year to year.

- (b) **Personal time.** Each judge will receive 2 personal leave days on January 1 of each year. Personal leave days may not be carried forward into the next year.

*(Effective 7/1/24)*

### **19.3 ANCILLARY CRIMINAL DEFENSE EXPENSES.**

**Ancillary Services.** The right to ancillary services arises only when an indigent defendant demonstrates that funds are “reasonably necessary” for his or her defense. (Corenevsky v Superior Court (1984) 23 C3d 307)

- (a) **Scope.** This rule establishes the requirements for the payment of reasonably necessary expenses that appointed counsel and self-represented litigants incur in defending persons who are indigent.

This rule will refer to these reasonably necessary expenses as “ancillary defense expenses.” All funds expended for ancillary defense expenses must have prior approval by Court order.

Funds approved for specific purpose, moreover, may not be expended for another use without prior Court approval.

- (b) **Required Submission.** All initial applications for the authorization of ancillary defense expenses shall be submitted by ex parte motion to the judicial officer assigned to the case. The application shall be accompanied by a declaration with the information described in subsection C below.

The application and supporting declarations shall be marked “Confidential,” and shall be kept in a confidential section of the court file.

**(c) Required Declaration.** All applications for ancillary defense expenses shall be supported by a declaration setting forth:

- (i)** A summary of the circumstances of the charged offense or facts that demonstrate why funding of ancillary defense expenses is necessary in the interests of justice;
- (ii)** The status of the case;
- (iii)** The specific purpose for the funds, including the nature of the services to be rendered and an explanation why those services are reasonably necessary for the defense of the case; and
- (iv)** The name and title of each appointed service provider (investigator, expert, or other) for whom funds are being sought, the hourly rate and maximum amount expected to be charged for the service, travel-related expenses other than mileage, and any other special expenses.
- (v)** Counsel and self-represented defendants seeking the services of multiple experts relating to a single or common issue must demonstrate a compelling necessity for such use of multiple experts. In addition, counsel and self-represented defendants must include in the request for reimbursement a representation that the rate requested:
  - a. does not exceed the investigator’s or expert’s customary rates for services performed, and
  - b. does not exceed local prevailing rates for the services performed.

If a self-represented defendant has not suggested a particular investigator, the Court will select one.

The maximum hourly billing rates, as well as the maximum initial authorizations, for all investigators and legal runners shall be set by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Legal runner services, when approved by the Court, are limited to photocopying, and transporting materials, orders, and motions. Visits and phone calls to the County’s detention centers must be associated with an allowable billable activity and will be subject to the Court’s discretion.

**(d) Travel Expenses.** The Court will determine the reasonableness and necessity of travel expenses on a case-by-case basis. Travel expenses are not considered necessary when the purpose of the trip may reasonably be accomplished in another way, such as by video meeting, telephone, or correspondence. Further, counsel should use the least expensive alternative means of travel. For motor vehicles, the mileage rate is the current federal

mileage reimbursement rate established by the IRS that corresponds to the dates of travel.

- (i) No funds may be expended for overnight travel by investigators, experts, or others without prior court approval. Pre-approved hourly investigation expenses may not be applied to overnight or airline travel costs unless expressly designated by the Court for travel after an appropriate request.
- (ii) Applications that include a request for travel expenses to interview witnesses must contain, in addition to the requirements above, a declaration setting forth:
  - a. The relevance and materiality of the witness' proposed testimony;
  - b. An explanation as to why a telephone interview or an interview conducted remotely would not suffice;
  - c. An explanation as to why it would not be practical to utilize the services of an investigator in the area where the witness lives;
  - d. Whether it would be feasible to fly the witness to the Reno-Tahoe International Airport for an interview, with a return flight the same day, to avoid the expense of overnight travel for the investigator; and
  - e. A representation that the applicant has endeavored to secure the lowest possible airfare.

When travel is required by appointed counsel or a person authorized to assist appointed counsel, reasonable and necessary meals and lodging may be claimed.

No funds may be expended for travel nor per diem without prior approval from the Court.

- (e) **Expenses for Medical and Mental Health Professionals.** On initial applications requesting authorization for expenses for doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and similar experts, the maximum amount allowed by the court will be an amount sufficient to procure an initial written report from the expert. This report should describe the need, if any, for further services at an approved rate. The defense must endeavor to negotiate the lowest hourly rate. If the defense retains an expert located more than 175 miles from the Lassen Superior Court, the declaration shall explain in detail why local experts could not be employed to provide similar services. Expenses for supplemental reports by experts or investigators may not be paid by the Court prior Court approval.

(f) **Additional Funding.** After the initial funding approved by declaration described in subsection C above has been exhausted, no additional work may be performed or compensated without first obtaining Court approval by submitting a supplemental funding request under this subsection. Each application for additional funding for a previously authorized service provider (investigator, expert, or other) shall state, in the heading of the pleading, that it is a supplemental request, and shall include a declaration setting forth:

- (i) The date and amount of previous funding authorizations for the service provider;
- (ii) The amount of any billings for services completed by the service provider and a general summary of those completed services;
- (iii) The remaining balance from funds previously authorized for the service provider;
- (iv) A detailed description of the services remaining to be performed.

Any additional request for the services of an expert must be accompanied by a report or declaration of the expert explaining the need for additional services.

(g) **Claims for the Payment of Ancillary Defense Expenses.** Claims for the payment of ancillary defense expenses must have prior Court authorization as described above; without prior authorization, claims will not be paid. Claims for payment of ancillary defense expenses shall be submitted via mail to:

Lassen Superior Court  
Attn: Administrative Services Department  
2610 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, California 96130

or by email to [AdministrativeServices@lassencourt.ca.gov](mailto:AdministrativeServices@lassencourt.ca.gov). Claims shall comply with the requirements as detailed in this rule or as otherwise determined by the Presiding Judge, including any requirements for supporting documents.

*(Effective 7/1/24, as amended 1/1/26)*

#### **19.4 APPOINTED ATTORNEY FEES.**

This rule governs all appointed attorney fees, except for those related to Department 5, Prison Appointed Attorney Fees. For supplemental fees, rules, and procedures specific to Department 5, refer to Rule 19.4.1

**(a) Fees for Private Appointed Conflict Public Defenders.** Private appointed indigent criminal defense and juvenile counsel assigned by the Lassen Superior Court for matters other than criminal arraignments shall be compensated as follows:

For First Degree Murder defense: \$125.00 per hour  
For “Three Strike” (25 to Life) defense: \$115.00 per hour  
For all other Felony defense: \$100.00 per hour  
For all Juvenile Delinquency defense: \$90.00 per hour  
For all Misdemeanor defense: \$90.00 per hour  
For Writs: \$90.00 per hour  
For Civil Contempt: \$90.00 per hour  
For Misdemeanor Appeals: \$90.00 per hour  
For CARE Court: \$90.00 per hour

All counsel submitting fee claims shall give due regard in computing the time and amount thereof to the guidance of Penal Code § 987.2, where it is provided that an assigned attorney “... shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and for necessary expenses, the amount of which shall be determined by the court...”

Counsel accepting appointment under this rule shall do so with a clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the necessity and justification for hours spent; and may reduce a claim for hours or travel found not to be reasonably necessary for the representation of the defendant or spent on unfounded motions or procedures. In reviewing fee claims, the court will consider the time spent and amount claimed with reference to the following:

- (i)** Customary fees in the locality.
- (ii)** Time reasonably required for the matter.
- (iii)** Difficulty of the defense.
- (iv)** Unusual legal issues dealt with.
- (v)** Degree of professional skill and experience required and exercised by counsel.
- (vi)** The professional character, qualification, and standing of the attorney.

Assigned counsel shall submit a COUNTY fee claim with all required supporting information on a monthly basis during the course of the representation.

Assigned counsel traveling over 50 miles one way from their primary business office or residence for an in-person appearance may claim mileage reimbursement for the round-trip distance at the current federal mileage rate and up to 2 hours of total travel time per travel occurrence, at the applicable defense rate for the case type of the appointment. Travel time compensation is capped at 2 hours per day and cannot be billed separately for each case.

**(b) Fees for Counsel Appointed to Represent Indigent Parties in Juvenile Dependency Proceedings.** Court-appointed counsel, other than counsel employed by a public entity, for a parent or minor in any juvenile dependency proceeding shall be compensated as follows:

\$90.00 per hour

Counsel accepting appointments in a juvenile dependency proceeding shall be in compliance with the Juvenile Dependency rules outlined in Rule 3 of the Local Rules of Court.

Counsel accepting appointments under this rule shall do so with a clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the necessity and justification for hours spent and may reduce a claim for hours or travel found not to be necessary for the purpose of the appointment or spent on unfounded motions or procedures. In reviewing fee claims, the court will consider the time spent and amount claimed with reference to the following:

- (i)** Customary fees in the locality.
- (ii)** Time reasonably required for the matter.
- (iii)** Difficulty of the defense.
- (iv)** Unusual legal issues dealt with.
- (v)** Degree of professional skill and experience required and exercised by counsel.
- (vi)** The professional character, qualification, and standing of the attorney.

Assigned counsel shall submit a COURT fee claim upon a form provided for that purpose by the Court, with all information requested thereon. Incremental billing on a monthly or quarterly basis following completion of services is preferred.

Assigned counsel traveling over 50 miles one way from their primary business office or residence for an in-person appearance may claim mileage reimbursement for the round-trip distance at the current federal mileage rate and up to 2 hours of total travel time per travel occurrence, at the applicable defense rate for the case type of the appointment. Travel time compensation is capped at 2 hours per day and cannot be billed separately for each case.

**(c) Fees for Private Court Appointed Indigent Defense Investigators.** The hourly rate the Lassen County Public Defender pays when contracting for investigative services is Fifty-Five Dollars (\$55) per hour.

Investigative services for indigent defense rendered pursuant to court authorization by the Lassen County Superior Court shall be compensated at the rate of Fifty-Five Dollars (\$55) per hour.

Persons accepting assignments under this rule shall do so with the clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the justification and necessity for the hours spent and may reduce a claim for hours found not to be reasonably necessary for the purpose of the assignment.

Indigent defense investigators shall submit a fee claim on a form provided for that purpose by the Court Administrator, with the signature of the attorney retaining the services attesting to the validity of the claim, and with all information requested thereon, only upon completion of the investigation, unless prior court authorization for an incremental billing is obtained by the attorney on behalf of the investigator for good cause.

**(d) Fees for Private Appointed Conflict Public Defenders in Criminal Arraignments.** Private appointed indigent criminal defense counsel assigned by the Lassen Superior Court for representation during the criminal arraignment calendars shall be compensated as follows:

\$200 per day

Appointed counsel is expected to arrive at the Lassen County Adult Detention Facility (ADF) prior to the scheduled arraignment calendar with adequate time to meet with all indigent defendants, but no less than 30 minutes before the start of the calendar. If appointed counsel is unable to be physically present at the ADF, remote appearance may be permitted for both pre-arraignment meetings with indigent defendants and during arraignment proceedings, subject to prior approval and coordination with the Court and ADF.

Assigned counsel shall submit a COUNTY fee claim with all required supporting information on a monthly basis during the course of the representation.

Assigned counsel traveling over 50 miles one way from their primary business office or residence for an in-person appearance may claim mileage reimbursement for the round-trip distance at the current federal mileage rate and up to 2 hours of total travel time per travel occurrence, at the applicable defense rate for the case type of the appointment. Travel time compensation is capped at 2 hours per day and cannot be billed separately for each case.

*(Effective 7/1/24, amended 1/1/25, 7/1/25)*

#### **19.4.1 PRISON APPOINTED ATTORNEY FEES SUPPLEMENT.**

This rule serves as a supplement applicable to Prison Appointed Attorney Fees in Department 5. Any matters not addressed within this supplement will defer to the relevant provisions in other established rules.

**(a) Fees for Private Appointed Prison Defense Counsel.** Private appointed indigent criminal defense assigned by the Lassen Superior Court for Prison Defense Counsel within Department 5 shall be compensated as follows:

For First Degree Murder defense: \$150.00 per hour  
For “Three Strike” (25 to Life) defense: \$125.00 per hour  
For all other Felony defense: \$115.00 per hour  
For Investigator Fees: \$65.00 per hour  
For Travel: Assigned counsel traveling over 50 miles one way from their primary business office or residence for an in-person appearance may claim mileage reimbursement for the round-trip distance at the current federal mileage rate and up to 2 hours of total travel time per travel occurrence, at the applicable defense rate for the case type of the appointment. Travel time compensation is capped at 2 hours per day and cannot be billed separately for each case.

**(b) Guidelines for Billing Purposes.** The purpose of these guidelines is to promote uniformity in billing. The guidelines cannot address all situations. The basic principles of billing are:

- (i)** Billing for actual time spent
- (ii)** Efficient work
- (iii)** Detailed explanations for work performed

Receipts are required for reimbursable expenses.

Multiple cases on calendar shall be apportioned, including wait times between and amongst the cases. Per diem billing is no longer accepted. The apportionment of time includes cases where the defendant has more than one case on calendar.

Attorney billing shall account for time in 0.1 hour increments.

**(c) Billable and Non-Billable Activities:**

**1. Billable Activities:**

- (i)** Services performed while Court is in session or in chambers. This includes time waiting for a case to be called.

- (ii) Any out of court activities reasonably required to represent a client.
- (iii) Travel time to and from an institutional facility housing your client for the purposes of visiting said client.
- (iv) Time to review notes or summaries of a client's case in preparation for court dates will be compensated so long as an adequate description is provided of the work and its relation to the court date. *'File review' as a description when billing is inadequate.*

Counsel accepting appointment under this rule shall do so with clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the necessity and justification for hours spent; and may reduce a claim for hours found not to be reasonably necessary for the representation of the defendant or spent on unfounded motions or procedures.

The Court reserves the right to review and adjust payment for any billed service or expense determined to be unreasonable or unnecessary.

## 2. Non-Billable Activities:

- (i) Clerical and support staff including preparing proofs of service; faxing; and filing, copying or preparations of billings. The Court considers these costs overhead costs.
- (ii) Service of documents and subpoenas on the District Attorney, Public Defender or any other attorney or agency that accepts service by fax, mail or email.
- (iii) File maintenance: Opening, labeling and storing a client's file. Some file related activities such as breaking down discovery and exhibits and creating trial notebooks are billable so long as the activities are specifically described.

(d) **Deadline for Filing Claims by Appointed Prison Defense Counsel.** The State Controller's Office (SCO) Penal Code Section 4750 Manual states in part, regarding deadlines for submitting claims for reimbursement of prison defense costs, "Claimants have six months after the close of the month in which the costs were incurred (PC § 4750(j)) to file a claim. Claims filed after the six-month deadline will not be reimbursed by SCO."

PC § 4750(j) states: "No city, county, or other jurisdiction may file, and the state may not reimburse, a claim pursuant to this section that is presented to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or to any other agency or department of the state more than six months after the close of the month in which the costs were incurred."

With this, the Court requires timely submission of all prison defense related claims. Any claims submitted outside of a timeframe sufficient for the claims to be forwarded to the County for filing with the SCO within the deadlines established in PC § 4750 will not be processed by the Court.

*(Effective 1/1/25)*

## **19.5 ELISORS.**

Where one of the parties will not or cannot execute a document necessary to carry out a court order, the Clerk of the Court, or his or her authorized representative or designee may be appointed as an elisor to sign the document. An application for appointment of an elisor may be made ex parte. When applying for an appointment of an elisor, the application and proposed order must designate “The Clerk of the Court or Clerk’s Designee” as the elisor and specifically name the parties for whom the elisor is being appointed and in what capacity they are to sign the document. The application must not set forth a specific court employee. The order must expressly identify the document(s) being signed and a copy of the document must be attached to the proposed order. The original document, presented for signature by the elisor, must match the copy of the document attached to the proposed order. The declaration supporting the application must include specific facts establishing the necessity for the appointment of the elisor. If the elisor is signing documents requiring notarization, the applicant must arrange for a notary public to be present when the elisor signs the document(s).

*(Effective 7/1/24)*

## **19.6 PAYMENT PLANS FOR OUTSTANDING FINES AND FEES.**

- (a) Authority to Establish Payment Plans.** The Clerk of the Court, or his or her authorized representative or designee, including but not limited to Collections department staff, is authorized to review, negotiate terms, and establish payment plans with any debtor for outstanding fines and/or fees in an adjudicated case.
- (b) Payment Plans in Adjudicated Criminal and Traffic Cases.** In any criminal or traffic case where the charges have been previously adjudicated, the Clerk of the Court, or his or her authorized representative or designee, including but not limited to Collections department staff may review outstanding court-ordered fines and fees and place the defendant on a payment plan. Defendants with multiple adjudicated cases may request that outstanding fines and fees from multiple cases be consolidated into a single payment plan, wherein payments will be made consecutively. Defendants with multiple adjudicated cases with outstanding fines and fees from multiple cases will be placed on a consolidated single payment plan, wherein payments will be made consecutively. Cases will be prioritized to pay Victim Restitution before any remaining outstanding fines and fees, then by case age.

Superior Court of California, County of Lassen

*(Effective 1/1/25, as amended 1/1/26)*

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**APPENDIX OF LOCAL FORMS – BY NUMBER**

**LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT  
LOCAL FORMS  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

NUMBER	FORM NAME	Revised	Mandatory	Optional
<b>APPEAL FORMS</b>				
LSC-APL-100	Appeal Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet	01/23	X	
<b>CIVIL FORMS</b>				
LSC-CIV-025	Delay Reduction Program Notice	07/22	X	
LSC-CIV-050	Name Change – Criminal History Assessment	07/22	X	
<b>CRIMINAL FORMS</b>				
LSC-CRIM-025	Plea in Absentia	07/24	X	
LSC-CRIM-100	Petition for Resentencing – Response and Order	07/22	X	
LSC-CRIM-200	Community Service Work Time Sheet	01/25	X	
<b>FAMILY LAW FORMS</b>				
LSC-FL-100	Family Law Case Management: Status Conference Statement	07/22	X	
LSC-FL-101	Family Law Case Management: Settlement Conference Statement	07/22	X	
LSC-FL-120	Declaration of Notice Regarding Request for Ex-Parte Orders	09/24	X	
LSC-FL-200	Consent for Court Assignment (Family Law)	07/24	X	
<b>JURY FORMS</b>				
LSC-JUR-100	Request for Permanent Medical Excuse from Jury Service	04/22	X	
LSC-JUR-101	Request for Excuse from Jury Service – Age	04/22		X
LSC-JUR-102	Public Transit Reimbursement Request	01/23	X	
<b>JUVENILE FORMS</b>				
LSC-JVDP-100	Certificate of Competency to Practice in Juvenile Dependency Court	07/22	X	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS FORMS</b>				
LSC-MIS-025	Request for CourtCall Telephonic Appearance	01/23	X	
LSC-MIS-100	Research and Copy Request Form	07/23	X	
LSC-MIS-200	Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore	07/22	X	
LSC-MIS-300	Stipulation for Court Commissioner to Act as Temporary Judge for All Purposes	05/22	X	
LSC-MIS-400	Request/Notification for Courtroom Audio/Visual Presentation Equipment	05/22	X	

**All forms can be accessed on the Court's website [www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov](http://www.Lassen.Courts.CA.gov).**

**Copies can be obtained from the clerks window at the Hall of Justice • 2610 Riverside Drive • Susanville, CA**

**APPENDIX OF LOCAL FORMS – BY NAME**

**LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT  
LOCAL FORMS  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

FORM NAME	NUMBER	Revised	Mandatory	Optional
Appeal Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet	LSC-APL-100	01/23	X	
Certificate of Competency to Practice in Juvenile Dependency Court	LSC-JVDP-100	07/22	X	
Community Service Work Time Sheet	LSC-CRIM-200	01/25	X	
Consent for Court Assignment (Family Law)	LSC-FL-200	07/24	X	
Declaration of Notice Regarding Request for Ex-Parte Orders	LSC-FL-120	09/24	X	
Delay Reduction Program Notice	LSC-CIV-025	07/22	X	
Family Law Case Management: Settlement Conference Statement	LSC-FL-101	07/22	X	
Family Law Case Management: Status Conference Statement	LSC-FL-100	07/22	X	
Name Change – Criminal History Assessment	LSC-CIV-050	07/22	X	
Petition for Resentencing – Response and Order	LSC-CRIM-100	07/22	X	
Plea in Absentia	LSC-CRIM-025	07/24	X	
Public Transit Reimbursement Request	LSC-JUR-102	01/23	X	
Request for Appointment of Official Reporter Pro Tempore	LSC-MIS-200	07/22	X	
Request for CourtCall Telephonic Appearance	LSC-MIS-025	01/23	X	
Request for Excuse from Jury Service – Age	LSC-JUR-101	04/22		X
Request for Permanent Medical Excuse from Jury Service	LSC-JUR-100	04/22	X	
Request/Notification for Courtroom Audio/Visual Presentation Equipment	LSC-MIS-400	05/22	X	
Research and Copy Request Form	LSC-MIS-100	07/23	X	
Stipulation for Court Commissioner to Act as Temporary Judge for All Purposes	LSC-MIS-300	05/22	X	

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