

1 SUPERIOR COURT  
2 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor  
3 San Bernardino, CA 92415  
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8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

10 IN RE: ) GENERAL ORDER OF THE  
11 ) PRESIDING JUDGE  
12 PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING,  
13 RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING  
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18 The purpose of this General Order is to protect all persons with business in the  
19 Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, courthouses and court facilities;  
20 ensure the safe, secure and orderly conduct of hearings, trials and other court  
21 proceedings; and facilitate the safe, secure and efficient handling of court business.

22 This General Order is made pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 10.603,  
23 which vests in the Presiding Judge the authority to establish court policies, and rule  
24 1.150, which governs media coverage within the courtroom.

25 WHEREFORE, it is ordered:

26 I. DEFINITIONS

27 A. For the purpose of this General Order, the term, "Court" refers to the Superior  
28 Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

1 B. "Media" or "media agency" and "media coverage" are defined pursuant to  
2 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

3 1. "Media" and "media agency" shall mean any person or  
4 organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and  
5 includes any newspaper, radio or television station or  
6 network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house  
7 publication, professional journal or other news-reporting or  
8 news-gathering agency.

9 2. "Media coverage" shall mean any photographing, recording  
10 or broadcasting of court proceedings by the media using  
11 television, radio, photographic or recording equipment.

12 C. "Courthouse" shall mean any building containing, at least, one (1) courtroom.  
13 It shall also mean that portion of a multi-purpose commercial or private  
14 building that contains, at least, one (1) courtroom.

15 D. "Court facility" shall mean any building or that portion of a multi-purpose  
16 commercial or private building where official court business is regularly  
17 conducted.

## 18 II. PROHIBITIONS

19 A. Absent prior written authorization of the Court, there shall be no  
20 photographing, recording or broadcasting by the media, attorneys or  
21 members of the public within any of its courthouses and court facilities,  
22 including, but not limited to, courtrooms, entrances and exits, lobby areas,  
23 hallways, stairs, elevators and business offices except:

24 1. Authorized Court employees may use any camera-enabled  
25 or video-enabled device, including but not limited to,  
26 including, cameras, camcorders, cell phones, PDAs, tablets,  
27 iPads, iPods and watches, to take photographs or videos in  
28 any courthouse, courtroom or court facility;

1                   2. Officers of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies  
2                   may wear body cameras in a courthouse, courtroom or court  
3                   facility only while conducting official business on behalf of  
4                   the law enforcement agency and shall not activate the body  
5                   camera's record function unless engaged in an active law  
6                   enforcement effort in the particular courthouse, courtroom or  
7                   court facility; and

8                   3. Media members as permitted within a courtroom by a judicial  
9                   officer pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and  
10                  those areas that may be specifically designated by the Court  
11                  as media areas.

12                  This order is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, record or  
13                  broadcast from outside the entrances and exits of any courthouse or court facility,  
14                  provided such activity does not obstruct access to or from the courthouse or court  
15                  facility.

16                  B. Videotaping, photography and electronic recording devices must be turned off  
17                  while they are transported within any courthouse or court facility.

18                  C. Videotaping, photography and electronic recording of the interior of a  
19                  courtroom through the windows of the courtroom door(s) is prohibited.

20                  D. Jurors may not be videotaped, photographed or electronically recorded within  
21                  a courthouse or court facility at any time, with the exception that once jurors  
22                  have been discharged from a case and have returned their juror badges, they  
23                  may be videotaped, photographed or electronically recorded if they consent.  
24                  Videotaping, photography and electronic recording of any consenting jurors  
25                  may take place only in the area(s) of a courthouse designated for such  
26                  purpose.

27                  E. Spectators and other members of the public may not be videotaped,  
28                  photographed or electronically recorded within a courtroom. Spectators and  
                  other members of the public, who give their consent, may be videotaped,



1 V. NOTICE

2 It is ordered that this General Order shall be posted at each public entrance to a  
3 courthouse and on the Court's webpage, www.sb-court.org. The Sheriff of San  
4 Bernardino County and his/her deputies are directed to serve a copy of this General  
5 Order on any person or organization who appears to be in violation thereof, to advise  
6 the person or organization of the apparent violation and to immediately notify the  
7 manager or supervisor and the supervising judge of the courthouse or court facility to  
8 determine what, if any, action should be taken to address the apparent violation of a  
9 court order.

10 VI. PENALTIES


11 A. A violation of this General Order may be the basis for an Order terminating  
12 further media coverage; a citation for contempt; confiscation of recording equipment,  
13 including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets or other camera-enabled devices and  
14 other devices that capture digital images; and/or an Order imposing monetary or other  
15 sanctions.

16 B. A violation of this General Order may also result in imprisonment in the county  
17 jail for up to six months, or by a fine up to \$1,000, or by both, pursuant to Penal Code  
18 section 166(a)(4).

19 VII. EFFECT OF PRIOR ORDERS

20 This order is effective immediately and supersedes the General Order Re:  
21 Photography, Filming, Recording and Broadcasting, dated January 2, 2018.  
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24 Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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28 John P. Vander Feer  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court