

SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY LOCAL RULES: PROBATE

The Court adopts the following as Supplemental Emergency Local Rules (“Rules”) intended to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority granted the Court by the March 23, 2020, and March 30, 2020, Orders of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, as Chair of the Judicial Council (“Orders”) and by the Emergency Rules in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic issued by the Judicial Council on April 6, 2020 (“Judicial Council Emergency Rules”). These Rules are effective April 9, 2020, subject to the limitations imposed by the Orders. These Rules supplement the prior Rules effective April 6, 2020, and they shall remain in effect until either rescinded by this Court or by withdrawal or change to the Orders or to the Judicial Council Emergency Rules.

1. **Application.** These Rules shall apply only to Probate cases and shall supplement (not replace) those issued on April 6, 2020.
2. **Filings in Non-Urgent Probate Cases.** While a drop box for Probate cases is available, non-urgent matters will not be immediately processed. The Court deems this to substantially interfere with parties’ ability to file papers, and so the period through April 28, 2020, is considered a Court holiday for purposes of such filings.
3. **Hearings and Trials.**
 - a. *Trial and Hearing Dates Prior to May 4, 2020.* Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all trial and hearing dates on any Probate case set to take place from March 16, 2020, through May 4, 2020, will be continued by the Court pursuant to section c. below. Although hearings and trials may continue to display as calendared in electronic online case access, no hearings or trials will be conducted during this period.
 - b. *Trial Deadlines for Vacated Trials.* For those cases with trial dates vacated under Rule 3a, all deadlines that run from the initial trial date – including the discovery cutoff and expert disclosure deadline – shall run from the reset trial date.

- c. *Rescheduling of Hearings/Parties to Provide Notice.* Probate hearing dates that are vacated pursuant to these Rules and all hearing dates that have been previously vacated due to the Court closure that began on March 16, 2020, will be reset by the Court. Notice of the new hearing date will not be sent out by the Court. Instead, all new hearing dates will be available through the Open Access web portal on the Court's website. Once these new dates are set, Petitioners are ordered to serve written or electronic notice to all other parties to an action of the new date for hearing and file proof of service thereto.
- d. *Filing Deadlines for Rescheduled Hearings.* For hearings reset by these Rules, the statutory deadlines for papers not yet filed shall be based on the new hearing date.
- e. *Tentative Rulings.* The Court's existing tentative ruling procedure will be suspended until further notice.