



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Kim M. Bartleson, CCE
Court Executive Officer/
Jury Commissioner

Joyce D. Hinrichs
Presiding Judge

December 8, 2020

*******IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*******

Humboldt Superior Court Criminal Jury Trials To Be Reset

Due to the evolving public health emergency associated with the increased amount of positive COVID-19 cases in Humboldt County, the Court requested and has been granted an Emergency Order wherein all criminal jury trials scheduled to commence between December 8, 2020 and January 19, 2021, will be reset. The current, ongoing criminal jury trial is not affected by this Order.

The Implementation Order pertaining to the resetting of jury trials is attached to this press release.

The Court's goal is to ensure that jurors, judicial officers and court staff as well as other individuals involved in trials are not unduly or inadvertently exposed to COVID-19 infected individuals.

FILED

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

IMPLEMENTATION ORDER RE: COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

ORDER RE: JURY TRIALS
(December 8, 2020 – January 19, 2021)

In consideration of the recent, unprecedented increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in this county and elsewhere, the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt, has sought emergency relief from Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye from various statutory deadlines involving jury trials. This relief is sought to reduce the public safety risk arising from convening large venire panels and conducting jury selection in physical circumstances that may increase the risk to potential jurors, judicial officers and court staff as well as other individuals involved in those proceedings to contracting COVID-19. While the court has taken steps to address social distancing requirements and implemented other COVID-19 safety focused protocols, there has been a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Humboldt County which is negatively impacting the number of people willing to serve as jurors at this time. The December 3, 2020 Order from Governor Newsom has identified the Northern California Region (including Humboldt County) as the region most at risk of running out of

1 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity in the very near future which will result in a more stringent
2 stay-at-home order.

3 Exercising the authority granted under Government Code section 68115 and the
4 renewed Request for Judicial Emergency Order of Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chair
5 of the Judicial Council of California, made by the Superior Court of California, County of
6 Humboldt ("Court"), Presiding Judge Joyce D. Hinrichs, on this day, this Court HEREBY FINDS
7 AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

8 Any judge of the Humboldt County Superior Court may extend the time period provided
9 in section 1382 of the Penal Code of the holding of a criminal trial by not more than thirty (30)
10 days in cases in which the statutory deadline otherwise would expire on and between
11 December 8, 2020, to January 19, 2021, inclusive. (Gov. Code, § 68115(a)(10).);

12 All other jury trials scheduled to commence on or between December 8, 2020, and
13 January 19, 2021, will not proceed and will be reset on the next scheduled calendar date by
14 the assigned Judicial Officer. This Order is based on a finding of good cause arising out of the
15 Public Health Crisis and above recitations. This Order will facilitate the court's goal and that of
16 our state and county of eliminating the need to gather large numbers of people in enclosed
17 spaces that jury trials necessarily require.

18 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

19 DATED: December 8, 2020

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22 JOYCE D. HINRICHS, Presiding Judge
23 Superior Court of California
24 County of Humboldt
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