

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

EMERGENCY COURT RULE

No. 2

(Electronic Judicial Signatures)

WHEREAS Governor Gavin Newsom on March 4, 2020 proclaimed the existence of a state of emergency in California in response to the global COVID-19 outbreak, and on March 19, 2020 issued Executive Order N-33-20 recommending the practice of social distancing;

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces;

WHEREAS Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye recognized in her Statewide Order dated March 23, 2020 that the health restrictions implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19 prevent superior courts from operating normally;

WHEREAS the health and safety of the parties in civil and criminal proceedings, the public, court staff, judicial officers, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and others present at these proceedings is of great importance; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the Judicial Council of California, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye issued a subsequent statewide emergency order on March 30, 2020 authorizing the actions taken herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, I find good cause to order that:

1. In furtherance of the Governor's shelter in place order, if a document requires a signature by a court or a judicial officer, the document may be electronically signed in any manner permitted by law even if the document is not filed electronically.
2. An electronic signature is an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a

person with the intent to sign a document or record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means.

This emergency rule will remain in effect for ninety (90) days after the COVID-19 state of emergency in the State of California ends.

SO ORDERED.

Dated this 6th of April, 2020.



Steven R. Sanders
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court,
County of San Benito