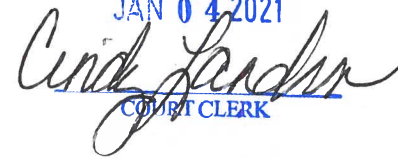


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COURT CLERK

Mariposa County Superior Court
COVID-19 Pandemic Criminal Case Readiness Conferences
Standing Order # 21-001

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the Mariposa County Superior Court has been unable to conduct jury trials in the historic courthouse since March of 2020. Due to the inability to safely ensure social distancing of potential jurors, litigants, and court staff the court has had to secure an off-site location for both criminal and civil jury trials that will allow for social distancing. Trying criminal cases off-site greatly increases the costs to the court for facility rental, daily cleaning and disinfection services, and additional security.

Currently, because of a regional shortage of ICU beds, Mariposa County remains in a partial lockdown status. A regional stay-at-home order is presently in effect. Although the court, deemed by the State to be an essential service, remains open, many local government offices, businesses, and other services are either closed or allowed to remain open with severe limits on the number persons allowed inside at any one time. Dining, both indoor and outdoor, is closed, and meals are only available for take-out from those establishments that remain open. Thus, resources available in the town of Mariposa for potential jurors are limited.

Most importantly, many potential jurors have fears about congregating for jury service, or are unavailable for jury service because of their need to isolate or quarantine because of the pandemic, or the need to care for minor children or members of their household who are ill or in isolation or quarantine.

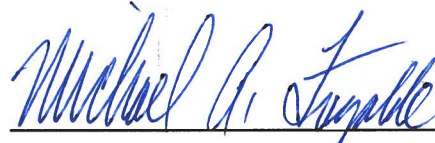
Therefore, until this order is rescinded, the Mariposa County Superior Court hereby adopts the following procedures for criminal cases:

1. All cases presently set for trial will have a mandatory settlement conference scheduled by the court, to be heard via Zoom, and to be held at least 30 days before the scheduled trial date. Appearance at this conference is mandatory, either by counsel or by the defendant if self-represented. Defendants who are represented by counsel are not required to be personally present at the conferences.
2. All felony cases still at the pre-preliminary hearing stage after 90 days from the arraignment on the Complaint may have a settlement conference, to be heard via Zoom, set at the discretion of the Presiding Judge. Appearance at this conference is mandatory, either by counsel or by the defendant if self-represented. Defendants who are represented by counsel are not required to be personally present at the conferences.

3. Settlement conferences will be scheduled on Thursday afternoons between the hours of 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 4, 2021



Michael A. Fagalde, Presiding Judge
Mariposa County Superior Court