



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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

Joyce D. Hinrichs
Presiding Judge

January 22, 2021

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

Humboldt Superior Court Criminal Jury Trials to be Reset

Due to the continued, evolving public health emergency related to COVID-19, Humboldt Superior Court requested and has been granted an Emergency Order wherein all criminal jury trials scheduled to commence between January 25, 2021 and March 1, 2021, will be reset. The current, ongoing criminal jury trial is not affected by this Order.

While the County remains in the purple tier related to COVID-19 restrictions, no jury trials will proceed for at least the weeks of January 25th and February 1st. During this period, the Court is hopeful the County will be moved down to the red tier, so it could proceed with jury trials with the current safety protocols in place. Also during this period, the Court will be investigating additional safety measures, if it becomes necessary to proceed with jury trials while the County is in the purple tier.

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

The Court's goal is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and 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.

FILED

JAN 22 2021

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COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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

IMPLEMENTATION ORDER RE: COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

ORDER RE: JURY TRIALS
(January 25, 2021 – March 1, 2021)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to health and safety concerns and resultant operational impediments, 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 court is experiencing substantially higher numbers of postponements or excuses from jury service for COVID-related reasons.


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

6 Any judge of the Humboldt County Superior Court may extend the time period provided
7 in section 1382 of the Penal Code of the holding of a criminal trial by not more than thirty (30)
8 days in cases in which the statutory deadline otherwise would expire on and between
9 January 25, 2021, to March 1, 2021, inclusive. (Gov. Code, § 68115(a)(10).);

10 All other jury trials scheduled to commence on or between January 25, 2021, and
11 March 1, 2021, will not proceed and will be reset on the next scheduled calendar date by the
12 assigned Judicial Officer. This Order is based on a finding of good cause arising out of the
13 Public Health Crisis and above recitations. This Order will facilitate the court's goal and that of
14 our state and county of eliminating the need to gather large numbers of people in enclosed
15 spaces that jury trials necessarily require.

16 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

17 DATED: January 22, 2021


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