

1 SUPERIOR COURT
2 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor
San Bernardino, California 92415

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8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**
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11 IN RE:) GENERAL ORDER #GO26-027
12)
13 COURT REPORTER AVAILABILITY) GENERAL ORDER
14 POLICY FOR CIVIL AND PROBATE) OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE
15 CASES)

16 Official court reporters are required for reporting all proceedings in felony criminal
17 and juvenile cases. Court reporters are not statutorily required to be provided by the
18 courts in civil, family law, probate, misdemeanor criminal, and traffic cases. With the
19 exception of limited civil, misdemeanor and infraction cases, Government Code section
20 69957 prohibits the courts from providing electronic recording in civil, family law and
21 probate courtrooms.

22 The Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino has been suffering
23 from a severe lack of court reporters. Available court reporters are unable to routinely
24 cover non-mandated case types, including civil and probate cases. Official court
25 reporters are not normally available for reporting trials in unlimited cases. Official court
26 reporters are also not normally available for reporting law and motion matters in
27 unlimited jurisdiction cases, except as specifically listed on the court's website.
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1 Consequently, parties to a civil or probate matter who want to memorialize a
2 hearing or trial may arrange, at their own expense, for the presence of a court reporter
3 given the likelihood under the present circumstances that the court will NOT be able to
4 provide an official court reporter. (Gov. Code, § 68086, subd. (d)(2) and Cal. Rules of
5 Court, rule 2.956(c).) For trial, a party must comply with Cal. Rules of Court, rule
6 2.956(b)(3).


7 To the extent an official court reporter is available to be assigned to a civil or
8 probate matter, priority will be given in the following order, and the parties will be
9 notified:

10 a) Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship

11 The Court finds good cause to allow the parties and counsel in civil or probate
12 cases desiring a court reporter's services for which the court does not make a court
13 reporter available to arrange for the appointment of a privately retained certified
14 shorthand reporter, who will be designated as the Official Court Reporter for the
15 purposes of their trial. If an arrangement for a court reporter is made under this General
16 Order, it is the responsibility of the arranging party or parties to pay the reporter's fees
17 for attendance at the proceedings. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.956(c).)

18 This order is effective January 1, 2026, and supersedes all previous general
19 orders entitled *Court Reporter Availability Policy for Civil and Probate Cases*, issued by
20 previous Presiding Judges. This order shall remain in effect until December 31, 2027.

21 Dated this 1st day of January, 2026.

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24 _____
25 Rod Cortez
26 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
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