

1 SUPERIOR COURT  
2 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

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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:

12 DISMISSAL OR CLOSURE OF  
13 INFRACTION OR MISDEMEANOR CASE  
14 DUE TO DEATH OF DEFENDANT

15 } GENERAL ORDER #GO26-008  
16 } GENERAL ORDER OF THE  
17 } PRESIDING JUDGE

18 In an effort to reduce judicial and clerical time used to process requests to dismiss  
19 or close cases based on official notice of the death of a defendant, it is hereby ordered  
20 that the Clerk's Office dismiss open cases and close sentenced cases for misdemeanor  
21 and infraction matters. In addition, this general order shall allow the Clerk's Office, where  
22 appropriate, to suspend fine or fee balances, terminate probation, exonerate and return  
23 bail bonds, vacate future hearings, and recall warrants.

24 Pursuant to Penal Code section 1385, the Court finds that it is in the interest of  
25 justice to dismiss pending charges upon the death of the defendant. Pursuant to Penal  
26 Code section 1203.3, subdivision (a), the Court finds that it is in the interest of justice to  
27 revoke and terminate probation upon the death of the defendant.

1           The Clerk's Office shall dismiss or close matters which it determines, from the  
2 records on file in the case and from any petition, meet the following criteria: 1) the Clerk's  
3 Office has received official notice of the death of the defendant to include a certified copy  
4 of a death certificate or, if submitted by a government agency identified in the Criminal  
5 Procedures Manual Death of Defendant Procedures, a copy of a death certificate or a  
6 copy of the "Death Master File"; 2) the case is a misdemeanor or infraction; 3) the case  
7 is not on appeal; and 4) victim restitution is not outstanding.

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9           The Clerk's Office is ordered to verify that the defendant's name and date of birth  
10 match the official notice of death of the defendant and that the above criteria are met  
11 before the cases are dismissed. Any variations shall be routed to a judicial officer for  
12 determination.

13           This order is effective January 1, 2026, and supersedes all previous general orders  
14 entitled *Dismissal or Closure of Infraction or Misdemeanor Case Due to Death of a*  
15 *Defendant*, issued by previous Presiding Judges. This order shall remain in effect until  
16 December 31, 2027.

17           Dated this 1st day of January, 2026.

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21           Rod Cortez  
22           Presiding Judge of the Superior Court