

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

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8 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

10 IN RE:

11 PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING,
12 RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING

GENERAL ORDER #GO26-018

GENERAL ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

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17 The purpose of this General Order is to protect all persons with business in the
18 Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, courthouses and court
19 facilities; ensure the safe, secure and orderly conduct of hearings, trials and other
20 court proceedings; and facilitate the safe, secure and efficient handling of court
21 business.

22 This General Order is made pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 10.603,
23 which vests in the Presiding Judge the authority to establish court policies and allocate
24 resources in a manner that promotes access to justice for all members of the public,
25 provides a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, maximizes the use
26 of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances
27 service to the public; California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, which governs media
28 coverage within the courtroom; and precedent such as *Cox v. Louisiana* (1965) 379

1 U.S. 599 and *Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo, Inc v. Williams* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 860
2 concerning valid time, place, and manner restrictions.

3 WHEREFORE, it is ordered:

4 I. DEFINITIONS

5 A. For the purpose of this General Order, the term, "Court" refers to the
6 Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

7 B. "Media" or "media agency" and "media coverage" are defined pursuant to
8 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

9 1. "Media" and "media agency" shall mean any person or
10 organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and
11 includes any newspaper, radio or television station or
12 network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house
13 publication, professional journal, social media, or other
14 news-reporting or news-gathering agency.

15 2. "Media coverage" shall mean any photographing, recording
16 or broadcasting of court proceedings by the media using
17 television, radio, photographic or recording equipment.

18 C. "Courthouse" shall mean any building containing, at least, one (1)
19 courtroom. It shall also mean that portion of a multi-purpose commercial or
20 private building that contains, at least, one (1) courtroom.

21 D. "Court facility" shall mean any building or that portion of a multi-purpose
22 commercial or private building where official court business is regularly
23 conducted.

24 II. PROHIBITIONS

25 A. Absent prior written authorization of the Court, there shall be no
26 photographing, recording or broadcasting of court proceedings by the
27 media, attorneys or members of the public within any of its courthouses and
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1 court facilities, including, but not limited to, courtrooms, entrances and exits,
2 lobby areas, hallways, stairs, elevators and business offices except:

- 3 1. Authorized Court employees may use any camera-enabled
4 or video-enabled device, including but not limited to,
5 cameras, camcorders, cell phones, PDAs, tablets, iPads,
6 iPods and watches, to take photographs or videos in any
7 courthouse, courtroom or court facility;
- 8 2. Officers of local, state and federal law enforcement
9 agencies may wear body cameras in a courthouse,
10 courtroom or court facility only while conducting official
11 business on behalf of the law enforcement agency and
12 shall not activate the body camera's record function unless
13 engaged in an active law enforcement effort in the
14 particular courthouse, courtroom or court facility; and
- 15 3. Media members as permitted within a courtroom by a
16 judicial officer pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule
17 1.150, and as permitted in specifically designated areas by
18 the Court as defined in Attachment A.

19 This order is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, record or
20 broadcast from outside the entrances and exits of any courthouse or court facility,
21 provided such activity does not obstruct access to or from the courthouse or court
22 facility.

- 23 B. Videotaping, photography and electronic recording devices must be turned
24 off while they are transported within any courthouse or court facility.
- 25 C. Videotaping, photography and electronic recording of the interior of a
26 courtroom through the windows of the courtroom door(s) is prohibited.
- 27 D. Jurors may not be videotaped, photographed or electronically recorded
28 within a courthouse or court facility at any time, with the exception that once

1 jurors have been discharged from a case and have returned their juror
2 badges, they may be videotaped, photographed or electronically recorded if
3 they consent. Videotaping, photography and electronic recording of any
4 consenting jurors may take place only in the area(s) of a courthouse
5 designated for such purpose.

6 E. Spectators and other members of the public may not be videotaped,
7 photographed or electronically recorded within a courtroom. Spectators and
8 other members of the public, who give their consent, may be videotaped,
9 photographed or electronically recorded in the area(s) of a courthouse
10 designated for such purpose.

11 F. Judicial officers and employees of the Superior Court of California for the
12 County of San Bernardino may not be videotaped, photographed or
13 electronically recorded within a courthouse or court facility without their
14 consent.

15 G. Cell phones or other camera-enabled devices and devices that capture
16 digital images, such as watches, PDAs, tablets, iPads and iPods, may be
17 brought into courthouses and court facilities, as long as the imaging
18 capturing features are not activated, used or displayed without the prior
19 written authorization of the Court.

20 H. The Sheriff's Department may use video monitoring systems placed in
21 courthouse public hallways, waiting areas, and some courtrooms as well as
22 lockups and the clerk's office to assist in the security of courthouses. Video
23 monitoring systems and images captured by video monitoring systems are
24 court property. Not all video is recorded, and, when recorded, it is retained
25 for only a limited period of time. The recordings are not an official record of
26 court proceedings, and may not be used as such. Government Code
27 section § 69957; *NBC Subsidiary (KNBC-TV) v. Superior Court* (1999) 20
28 Cal.4th 1178, 1212 (observing that the public's right of access does not

1 extend beyond adjudicative proceedings and filed documents). No public
2 disclosure of any recordings shall be made except by authority of the Court
3 Executive Officer or his/her designee. Request for a recording must be
4 submitted to the Court using the Court's Request for Court Security Video
5 form.

6 III. EXCEPTIONS

7 A. This General Order is not intended to interfere with or restrict the rights of
8 the media to request permission from a judicial officer to allow media
9 coverage within a particular courtroom, nor to interfere with the authority of
10 each judicial officer to rule on requests pursuant to California Rules of Court,
11 rule 1.150.

12 B. Requests for any other exception to this General Order must be submitted
13 to the Court Executive Officer for the consideration of the Presiding Judge or
14 her/his designee. All such requests shall be made in writing and shall
15 include a statement of facts in support of the request.

16 C. Requests to photograph or film unoccupied or unused courtrooms, jury
17 rooms or employee work areas must be submitted to the Court Information
18 Officer. All such requests shall be made in writing and shall include a
19 statement of facts in support of the request.

20 IV. SEVERABILITY

21 Should any provision of the General Order be held invalid, the validity of the
22 other provisions of this General Order shall not be affected.

23 V. NOTICE

24 It is ordered that this General Order shall be posted at each public entrance to a
25 courthouse and on the Court's webpage, www.sb-court.org. The Sheriff of San
26 Bernardino County and his/her deputies are directed to serve a copy of this General
27 Order on any person or organization who appears to be in violation thereof and to
28 advise the person or organization of the apparent violation. If the apparent violation

1 continues after such notice, the Sheriff or his/her deputies are authorized to enforce
2 this General Order to ensure the orderly and peaceable conduct of court business at
3 the courthouse. The Sheriff or his/her deputies shall notify the Court's Public Safety
4 Officer, Court Counsel, and/or the Supervising Judge of that district or his/her
5 designee of the occurrence.

6 VI. PENALTIES

7 A violation of this General Order may be the basis for an Order terminating
8 further media coverage; a citation for contempt; confiscation of recording equipment,
9 including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets or other camera-enabled devices and
10 other devices that capture digital images; and/or an Order imposing monetary or other
11 sanctions.

12 VII. EFFECT OF PRIOR ORDERS

13 This order is effective January 1, 2026, and supersedes all previous general
14 orders entitled *Photography, Filming, Recording, and Broadcasting*, issued by previous
15 Presiding Judges. This order shall remain in effect until December 31, 2027.

16 Dated this 1st day of January 2026.



18 Rod Cortez
19 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
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Attachment A - Designated Media Areas by Court Location:

Barstow Courthouse (235 E. Mountain View Street Barstow, CA 92311)

- Outside the front public entrance under the covered awning at the table benches

Big Bear Courthouse (477 Summit Blvd. Big Bear Lake, CA 92315):

- On the front lawn area outside of main lobby entrance

Fontana Courthouse (17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335):

- Outside the front public entrance at the parking lot eastern sidewalk

Historic Courthouse (351 N. Arrowhead Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92415):

- The front lawn southwest of the public front entrance

Joshua Tree Courthouse (6527 White Feather Rd. Joshua Tree, CA 92252):

- The area surrounding the global sculpture outside the front public entrance

Juvenile Dependency (860 E. Gilbert Street San Bernardino, CA 92404):

- The front lawn area outside the front entrance

Juvenile Delinquency (900 E. Gilbert Street San Bernardino, CA 92404):

- 20 feet north of the bottom of the pedestrian ramp north of the front entrance

Needles Courthouse (1111 Bailey Ave. Needles, CA 92363):

- On the front lawn area outside of main lobby entrance

Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse (8303 Haven Ave. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730):

- The water fountain display area outside the east front entrance

San Bernardino Justice Center (247 W. 3rd Street San Bernardino, CA 92415):

- The south platform 30 feet east of the south front entrance doors

Victorville Courthouse (14455 Civic Drive Victorville, CA 92392):

- Outside the front entrance at the west parking lot sidewalk