

1 SUPERIOR COURT  
2 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
3 247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor  
4 San Bernardino, CA 92415  
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8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9  
10 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

11 IN RE:

12 PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING,  
13 RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING

14 } GENERAL ORDER #GO26-018  
15 } GENERAL ORDER OF THE  
16 } PRESIDING JUDGE

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.4<sup>th</sup> 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  
28

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](http://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.



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Rod Cortez  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

1                   Attachment A - Designated Media Areas by Court Location:

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

- 4                   ➤ Outside the front public entrance under the covered awning at the table  
benches
- 5

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

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- 8                   ➤ On the front lawn area outside of main lobby entrance
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10                  **Fontana Courthouse (17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335):**

- 11                  ➤ Outside the front public entrance at the parking lot eastern sidewalk
- 12

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

- 14                  ➤ The front lawn southwest of the public front entrance
- 15

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

- 17                  ➤ The area surrounding the global sculpture outside the front public entrance
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19                  **Juvenile Dependency (860 E. Gilbert Street San Bernardino, CA 92404):**

- 20                  ➤ The front lawn area outside the front entrance
- 21

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

- 23                  ➤ 20 feet north of the bottom of the pedestrian ramp north of the front entrance
- 24

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

- 26                  ➤ On the front lawn area outside of main lobby entrance
- 27

1      **Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse (8303 Haven Ave. Rancho Cucamonga, CA**  
2      **91730):**

- 3            ➤ The water fountain display area outside the east front entrance

4      **San Bernardino Justice Center (247 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street San Bernardino, CA 92415):**

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

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

- 7            ➤ Outside the front entrance at the west parking lot sidewalk