

# THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KINGS

## COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CLERK OF COURTS MEDIA PLAN



*The conditions and procedures specified in this Media Plan may be subject to modification by the Court at any time before, during, and after the hearing.*

*The Media Plan was originally developed and endorsed by the Judges of this Superior Court in March of 1996. Revisions have occurred as necessary.*

Established in 1996, the Court's Media Plan was designed to meet various objectives related to media relations in the Court, with great emphasis placed on reinforcing public trust and confidence.

Educating the public about the role and work of the Court, accessing information about Court processes and services, transparency, and, above all, responsiveness to our community - are all part of meeting our principal responsibility of serving and being accountable to the public.

As appropriate, guidelines have been established to assist Media representatives in fulfilling their journalism objectives, once authorized by a Judicial Officer to enter a courtroom for coverage. The Media's observance of Judicial Officer directives, specified in written "*Orders on Media Request to Permit Coverage*", is essential to ensuring an appropriate atmosphere prevails in the Courthouse during the course of Court trials and members of the public and Media are accommodated successfully.

Media representatives interested in obtaining Court case information, addressing questions, or conveying concerns, may do so by contacting the Court Executive Officer.

Jeffrey E. Lewis, Court Executive Officer and Clerk of Courts  
The Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kings  
Office: (559)582-1010, Ext. 6002

**California Rules of Court** - Rule 1.150. Photographing, recording and broadcasting in court  
[http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1\\_150](http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1_150)

**Forms - Judicial Council of California Media Request Forms**

Media Request to Photograph, Record, or Broadcast - <http://courts.ca.gov/documents/mc500.pdf>

Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage - <http://courts.ca.gov/documents/mc510.pdf>

**Superior Court, Kings County - Local Rules of Court:**

<http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov/files/LocalRules-2017.pdf>

**Media Parking:**

Media vehicles will park in areas designated by the Court Executive Officer, Kings County Sheriff's Office, or the local Police Department. Vehicles illegally parked may be cited and towed.

**Security Screening and Courthouse Access:**

Refer to the Superior Court's website for information on the Security Screening process.

<http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov/generalinfo/etiquette-security.htm>

1. Ensuring that public access is not impaired and/or Court operations disrupted, Media equipment shall not be positioned or used in any manner that obstructs entrances to and/or exits from the Courthouse and lobby spaces shall be kept clear.
2. Media personnel shall possess identification badges and have them readily available should Security or Sheriff Personnel request to see them.
3. Media personnel shall vacate the courtroom and Courthouse during lunch breaks as ordered by the presiding Judicial Officer, directed by the Kings County Sheriff or the Court Executive Officer.
4. Courtrooms are cleared after each morning and afternoon session, but not cleared during morning and afternoon break periods. This practice is subject to change, however, depending on adherence to courtroom rules, and as directed by the presiding Judicial Officer.

**Media Personnel & Approved Use and Placement of Equipment in Courtrooms:**

Refer to the California Rules of Court, Rule 1.150., Photographing, recording and broadcasting in Court, Section (d), Personal recording devices, Section (e)(7), Media coverage, Equipment and personnel, and (e)(8), Normal requirements for media coverage of proceedings.  
[http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1\\_150](http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1_150)

Considering the occupancy limitations of our courtrooms, the Court recognizes the role of the Media, and as practical, will attempt to accommodate all individuals interested in, or associated with, a Court proceeding.

1. Approved equipment will only be allowed for use in designated areas of a Courtroom.
2. Equipment will be allowed outside the Courthouse in an area designated by the Executive Officer or the Sheriff's Department.
3. Media personnel may not utilize "live feed" from inside the courtroom.

**Media Pooling:**

Refer to the California Rules of Court, Rule 1.150., Photographing, recording and broadcasting in Court, Section (e)(9), Media coverage, Media pooling.

[http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1\\_150](http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1_150)

**Media Interview Locations:**

1. Interviews will be conducted outside of the Courthouse, except when it pertains to a Judicial Order barring communication.
2. Interviews will not be conducted inside courtrooms or Courthouse lobbies.

Media personnel may obtain hard copies of Court documents for a set fee per page.

A duplicated case file may also be available for review in the Court's Executive Office.

**Violations and Sanctions:**

Refer to the California Rules of Court, Rule 1.150., Photographing, recording and broadcasting in Court, Section (f), Sanctions. [http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1\\_150](http://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=one&linkid=rule1_150)