



Superior Court of the State of California

County of Kings

Nocona Soboleski
Court Executive Officer
and
Clerk of the Court

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OR AMENDMENT OF LOCAL RULES (Pursuant to Cal. R. Ct., rule 10.613)

To:

- The State Bar of California
- The Attorney General, State of California
- Local Bar Associations, Kings and Adjoining Counties
- Office of the District Attorney, Kings and Adjoining Counties
- Office of the County Counsel, Kings and Adjoining Counties
- Contracted Defense Counsel of Kings County
- Office of the Public Defender in Adjoining Counties
- Interested Others

Please be advised that on or before November 17, 2026, the Judges of the Kings County Superior Court will adopt additions and/or amendments to the official Local Rules of Court, to be effective on January 1, 2027.

On or before October 5, 2026, copies of all rules proposed for adoption and/or amendment will be posted on the Court's website (<http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov>) for review in conformity with Rule 10.613 of the California Rules of Court. In addition, paper copies of the Rules will be available for review in the Clerk's Office of each Division of the Kings County Superior Court.

The Court specifically invites any comments you may desire to make regarding the Court's proposed Rule changes. Requests for paper copies of the proposed changes to the Rules, and any comments on the proposed rules must be addressed as follows:

Nocona Soboleski, Executive Officer and Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of California, Kings County
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

Comments must be received by 9:00 a.m. on November 17, 2026.

Thank you for your continuing assistance to us in maintaining and improving the administration and effectiveness of our local trial court rules.

NOCONA SOBOLESKI
Superior Court Executive Officer and Clerk of the Court
Publisher of Trial Court Rules

**PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE KINGS COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT LOCAL RULES (Effective January 1, 2027)**

The Kings County Superior Court proposes to add or amend the following Local Rules and Form to become effective on January 1, 2027:

Note: Changes and additions will be highlighted in **Green.**

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE 129 – Copies of Court Documents

Proposed Change – Addition of subsection (G) to Rule 129

G. For a party that has been granted a current fee waiver, the clerk will provide a maximum of one non-duplicative copy of any document in the party's case in which the fee waiver was granted without fees being assessed. Fee waivers apply only to the case in which they are granted. If additional filings are processed in the case file, the party with the fee waiver may request one non-duplicative copy of the additional filings added without fees being assessed. The filing of subsequent fee waivers does not entitle a party to additional copies of documents which have already been provided, and therefore, fees will be assessed for subsequent requests for copies. Copy requests falling under this subsection are subject to Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 3.55 and may be subject to judicial approval.

(Eff. 1/1/18; amended 7/1/20; renumbered 1/1/21; amended 7/1/21; amended 1/1/27)

CHAPTER 3: CIVIL LAW AND MOTION

RULE 301 – Setting Law and Motion Hearing

Current Version

Prior to the filing of any law and motion matter, a date and time for hearing shall be reserved with the clerk. Matters will be formally set by the clerk for hearing upon receipt of a notice of motion and supporting documents, with the hearing date and time specified in accordance with the date and time reserved. Motions received without prior reservation with the clerk, shall be set in accordance with the convenience of the court.

Proposed Changes

- A. Prior to the filing of any law and motion matter, a date and time for hearing shall be reserved with the clerk.
- B. Reserved matters will be formally set by the clerk for hearing upon receipt of a notice of motion and supporting documents, with the hearing date and time specified in accordance with the date and time reserved. Failure to submit notice of motion and supporting documents within two (2) court days following reservation of the hearing date and time will automatically result in the matter being taken off calendar.
- C. Motions received without prior reservation with the clerk, shall be set in accordance with the convenience of the court.

(Eff. 1/1/99; amended 7/1/08; amended 1/1/27)

RULE 311 – Motions in Limine

Current Version

Rule 311(B)(4): As to all motions in limine to which opposition will be lodged, the parties shall submit to the court in a binder, a document which includes a not more than three (3) page argument for, and a not more than three (3) page argument against, each of the motions. The six (6) page per motion limitation provided for herein is exclusive of exhibits and any table of contents or table of authorities offered by the parties.

Proposed Changes

Rule 311(B)(4): For every motion in limine where an opposition will be lodged, the parties shall submit to the Court, in a binder, a document including a supporting argument prepared by the moving party, and an opposing argument prepared by the opposing party. Each argument may not exceed three (3) pages in length. The six (6) page per motion limitation is exclusive of exhibits, tables of content, or tables of authorities offered by the parties.

(Eff. 1/1/13; amended 1/1/23; amended 1/1/27)

CHAPTER 5: CRIMINAL RULES

RULE 503 – Criminal Trials – Duty of Counsel

Current Version

Rule 503(B): Interpreters – Counsel planning to call a witness who needs the assistance of an interpreter is required to make all necessary arrangements prior to trial for the presence of an appropriate interpreter at the time the witness is to be called. If given adequate advance notice, the court will assist criminal defendants in arranging for the presence of needed interpreters.

Proposed Changes

Rule 503(B): Interpreters – Counsel planning to call a witness who needs the assistance of an interpreter is required to make all necessary arrangements prior to trial for the presence of an appropriate interpreter at the time the witness is to be called. If given adequate advance notice, the court will assist criminal defendants in arranging for the presence of needed interpreters. At Trial Readiness, counsel shall meet and confer with the Interpreter's Office (Coordinator) regarding the number of witnesses needed, if witnesses are adults or minors, the languages requested, and for counsel to advise of specific technical terms, including medical terminology, that may assist Interpreters with preparing for trial proceedings.

(Eff. 1/1/99; amended 7/1/08; amended 1/1/27)

CHAPTER 6: JUVENILE COURT RULES

RULE 605 – Pre-Hearing Discovery

Current Version

Rule 605(F): In delinquency proceedings, the court rules regarding discovery set forth in Penal Code sections 1054 through 1054.8 will apply.

Proposed Changes

Rule 605(F): In juvenile justice proceedings, the court rules regarding discovery set forth in Penal Code sections 1054 through 1054.8 will apply.

(Eff. 1/1/99 as Rule 617; amended and renumbered 7/1/08; amended 1/1/27)

RULE 613 – Settlements

The court recognizes that agreement between the parties regarding the matters before the court is not only beneficial to the child/ren but also often contributes to the satisfactory reunification of the family. The court encourages settlement discussions including Family Unity Meetings between the parties at any time prior to the hearing. In the event the case is set for Jurisdiction/Disposition hearing, the parties shall meet at least one-half hour prior to the Jurisdiction/Disposition hearing to discuss settlement of the case. The court shall be promptly advised of any proposed settlements, admissions, or submissions of the entire hearing on reports.

(Eff. 1/1/99 as Rule 621; renumbered 7/1/08; amended 1/1/27)

RULE 614 – Standards of Representation in Dependency Cases

Current Version

Rule 614 (E): Each court appointed counsel, including those employed by county offices, must annually complete and file a “Certificate of Competency,” and file it with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. A copy of a form “Certificate of Competency” will be provided upon request. Requests and completed Certificates should be directed to:

Ms. Hope Hernandez, Sr. Executive Svc. Coordinator
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

Proposed Changes

Rule 614 (E): Each court appointed counsel, including those employed by county offices, must annually complete and file a “Certificate of Competency,” and file it with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. A copy of a form “Certificate of Competency” will be provided upon request. Requests and completed Certificates should be directed to:

~~Ms. Hope Hernandez, Sr. Executive Svc. Coordinator~~
Kings County Superior Court
~~Attn: Administration~~
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

(Eff. 1/1/99 as Rules 623 through 625; amended and renumbered 7/1/08; amended 7/1/17; amended 7/1/22; amended 1/1/27)

RULE 615 – Standard of Representation in Delinquency Juvenile Justice Cases

Current Version

All counsel appearing in juvenile justice proceedings shall meet the requirements for competent counsel set forth in Rule 5.664. Each court appointed counsel, including those employed by county offices, must annually complete Judicial Counsel Form JV-700 and submit the same to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Completed Judicial Council Forms JV-700 should be directed to:

Ms. Hope Hernandez, Sr. Executive Svc. Coordinator
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

Proposed Changes

All counsel appearing in juvenile justice proceedings shall meet the requirements for competent counsel set forth in Rule 5.664. Each court appointed counsel, including those employed by county offices, must annually complete Judicial Counsel Form JV-700 and submit the same to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Completed Judicial Council Forms JV-700 should be directed to:

~~Ms. Hope Hernandez, Sr. Executive Svc. Coordinator~~
Kings County Superior Court
~~Attn: Administration~~
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, California 93230

(Eff. 7/1/17; amended 7/1/22; amended 1/1/27)

RULE 618 – Release of Information Relating to Juvenile

Juvenile Court records are confidential by statute and case law. Disclosure and use of such records shall be governed by California Rules of Court, rule 5.552 and California Welfare and Institutions Code sections 825 through 830.1. ~~All requests for the dissemination of records pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code section 827 will be handled by the court in accord with its December 12, 2013 written policy regarding the same. The written policy of the court will be made available to the public upon request.~~

(Eff. 1/1/99 as Rule 628; amended and renumbered 7/1/08; amended and renumbered 7/1/17; ~~amended 1/1/27~~)

RULE 620 – Appointment of Child Advocates (CASA)

Current Version

Rule 620(A): At any time during a dependency proceeding pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 et seq. or at any time following a declaration of wardship at a disposition hearing during ~~delinquency~~ proceedings pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 et seq. a trained CASA volunteer may be appointed by the court to provide all the services contemplated by Welfare and Institutions Code sections 102(c) and 104, and to represent the best interests of children in Juvenile Court proceedings. To qualify for appointment, the child advocate must be trained and function under the auspices of a CASA program, formed and operating under the guidelines established by the Judicial Council of California (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 100 and 103(a)).

Proposed Changes

Rule 620(A): At any time during a dependency proceeding pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 et seq. or at any time following a declaration of wardship at a disposition hearing during ~~juvenile justice~~ proceedings pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 et seq. a trained CASA volunteer may be appointed by the court to provide all the services contemplated by Welfare and Institutions Code sections 102(c) and 104, and to represent the best interests of children in Juvenile Court proceedings. To qualify for appointment, the child advocate must be trained and function under the auspices of a CASA program, formed and operating under the guidelines established by the Judicial Council of California (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 100 and 103(a)).

(Eff. 1/1/11; renumbered 7/1/17; ~~amended 1/1/27~~)

RULE 622 – Competency Protocol

The Juvenile Court will follow the Juvenile Competency Protocol effective July 1, 2021. This protocol is consistent with and supplements the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code section 709 and California Rules of Court, rule 5.645. In the event of modifications to Welfare and Institutions Code section 709 and California Rules of Court, rule 5.645, the Statute and Rule of Court shall control. A copy of the Juvenile Competency Protocol can ~~also~~ be found on the court's website. ~~:-[Link to Juvenile Competency Protocol.]~~

(Eff. 7/1/21; amended 1/1/27)

New RULE 624 – Use of Juvenile Records to Prove Prior Strike

A prosecuting attorney may, without separately filing a Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827 Petition, obtain and use a juvenile wardship petition charging an offense that qualifies as a strike prior, and minute orders from jurisdictional and disposition hearings to show that the petition was sustained for the limited purpose of proving a prior strike allegation in adult Criminal Court.

The prosecuting attorney must redact from the Juvenile Court records the name(s) of any youth co-participants, the name(s) of any victim(s) and any references to offenses other than the prior strike offense before certified copies of these records can be entered into evidence to prove a prior strike. The right to disseminate these records is strictly limited to this purpose and the dissemination of these records is limited to the Court and opposing counsel.

(Eff. 1/1/27)

New RULE 625 – Appointment of Counsel in Juvenile Justice Cases

Immediately upon the filing of a petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602, whether in a detention or non-detention case, the Minor's Advocate Office, as attorney to be appointed to represent the Minor, is authorized pursuant to Welfare and Institution Code §827(a)(1)(E) to receive and review the petition, the police report(s), the Detention Assessment Report and Recommendation of Probation Officer, and any other documents filed concurrently with the petition in the Juvenile Court.

The Minor's Advocate Office shall review the information and determine whether the Minor's Advocate Office has a legal conflict. If the Minor's Advocate Office determines that a legal conflict exists in the matter, a contracted juvenile conflict attorney shall be contacted by the Minor's Advocate Office to appear for the initial hearing. The Minor's Advocate Office shall provide the contracted juvenile conflict attorney with the petition, the police report(s), the Detention Assessment Report and Recommendation of Probation Officer, and any other documents filed concurrently with the petition in the Juvenile Court.

Any attorney who receives any documents relating to a juvenile justice petition pursuant to this rule but does not accept appointment in the matter for any reason, shall destroy any such records and shall not disseminate the information other than as described above.

(Eff. 1/1/27)

New RULE 626 – Appointment of Counsel in Dependency Cases

Immediately upon the filing of a petition pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 300, whether in a detention or non-detention case, the County Counsel's Office is authorized pursuant to Welfare and Institution Code §827(a)(1)(E) to provide copies of the petition and other documents filed with the Juvenile Court to the attorneys available for appointment for the parties.

Any attorney who receives any documents relating to a juvenile dependency petition but does not accept appointment in the matter for any reason shall destroy any such records and shall not disseminate the information in any manner.

(Eff. 1/1/27)

CHAPTER 7: FAMILY COURT RULES

Rule 731 – Judicial Notice in Family Law Matters – Department 4

Current Version

Rule 731(A): When appearing in Department 4 of the Kings County Superior Court in connection with Family Law matters, all Requests for Judicial Notice must comply with the requirements set forth in subdivision (c) of Rule 3.1306 of the California Rules of Court, and relevant sections of the California Evidence Code.

Proposed Changes

Rule 731(A): When appearing in the Kings County Superior Court in connection with Family Law matters, all Requests for Judicial Notice must comply with the requirements set forth in subdivision (c) of Rule 3.1306 of the California Rules of Court, and relevant sections of the California Evidence Code.

(Eff. 1/1/17; amended 7/1/20; renumbered 7/1/21; amended 1/1/27)

The Kings County Superior Court proposes adopting the following Local Form to become effective on January 1, 2027:

1. New Form: KCLF CRIM 14 – Pretrial Release Terms and Conditions Proposition 36

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KINGS	FOR COURT USE ONLY
PRETRIAL RELEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PROPOSITION 36	
Defendant:	CII #:
aka:	Case No.
DOB:	Court Date:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED the defendant be released on Pretrial Services, and is to comply with the following terms and conditions:

☐ **Level 1**

- Court Reminder Calls
- Case Specific Conditions (*based on Nexus*)

☐ **Level 2**

- Report by phone weekly
- Court Reminder Calls
- Case Specific Conditions (*based on Nexus*)

☐ **Level 3**

- Court Reminder Calls
- Report In-Office Weekly
- Case Specific Conditions (*based on Nexus*)
- Criminal History Checks

☐ **Level 4**

- Court Reminder Calls
- Field/Home Visit
- Case Specific Conditions (*based on Nexus*)
- Criminal History Checks

☐ **Level 5**

- Court Reminder Calls
- Field/Home Visit
- Case Specific Conditions (*based on Nexus*)
- Criminal History Checks
- GPS monitoring

This is the order of the Superior Court dated: _____

1. ☐ Report to the Pretrial Services Unit (address below) immediately upon your release if during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), but no later than 9:00 a.m. the following business day if after the close of business; and report thereafter as directed and follow all reasonable directions of the Court, Probation Officer/Probation Technician.

Kings County Probation Department – Day Reporting Center
1520 Kings County Drive, Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 852-4669

2. ☐ Obey all laws of the United States, state, county and municipality in which you may be.
3. ☐ Do not change your address without the permission of the probation officer/probation technician or the Court. Do not leave the state of California without the written permission of the probation officer/probation technician and the Court.

4. ☐ Complete any necessary waivers of confidentiality – Release of Information (ROI) with the Probation Department Pretrial Services Unit and any treatment, counseling or educational programs, including program name. The recipient of the information shall be the Probation, the Court and the District Attorney's office, name of Defendant's attorney, attorney of record.
5. ☐ Seek and maintain gainful employment as directed.
6. ☐ Participate in the Pretrial Monitoring GPS (global positioning satellite) Program and comply with all conditions of the program. You will not be receiving times credits while on the GPS monitor. Probation shall place the GPS monitor on Defendant prior to the Defendant being released.
7. ☐ Submit to drug and/or alcohol testing as directed by the probation officer, probation technician, the Court or any treatment, counseling or educational program, including program name.
8. ☐ Submit person, property, place of residence or temporary abode, vehicle and personal effects to search at any time of the day or night with or without a search warrant or reasonable cause by any peace officer. Dogs are to be confined and/or restrained in a manner to allow the probation officer/probation technician unrestricted access to the front door of the residence and subsequent entry without delay.
9. ☐ Participate in treatment, counseling or educational programs approved by the assigned treatment providers and the Pretrial Monitoring Staff until otherwise directed, terminated, or transferred to similar treatment agency by the treatment provider or Pretrial Monitoring Staff or Court.
10. ☐ If the defendant fails to appear when required to do so by the Court, it is agreed that extradition be waived if apprehended outside the State of California; and may be charged with an additional crime as checked below:
- ☐ a Misdemeanor, violation of Section 1320(a) of the California Penal Code. I further understand that punishment following this conviction is imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- ☐ a Felony, violation of Section 1320(b) of the California Penal Code. I further understand that punishment following this conviction is a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170, or in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
11. ☐ Not own, possess, or purchase any firearms or replica firearms, including, but not limited to, handguns, rifles, BB guns, airsoft pistols/rifles, or any other replica firearm that a reasonable person would believe to be capable of being used as, or construed to be, a real firearm. Not own, possess, or purchase any parts of guns or ammunition, operable or inoperable. Not to possess any type of bulletproof vest(s).
12. ☐ Attend ____ AA meetings / NA meetings / Substance Abuse counseling sessions per week. (____ In person. ____ Audio/Video). Show written proof of same to the Pretrial Services Unit and to the Court at every court hearing.
13. ☐ Do not enter any establishment where the primary source of income is the sale of alcoholic beverages or marijuana. This includes bars and liquor stores and marijuana dispensaries.

14. ☐ Stay 100 yards away from person(s) and/or location(s) and have no contact with them. Do not harass, strike, threaten, assault (sexually or otherwise, hit, follow, stalk, molest, destroy or damage personal or real property, disturb the peace of, keep under surveillance, annoy by phone or other electronic means (including repeatedly contact, impersonate (on the internet, electronically or otherwise), or block movements of the protected person(s).
15. ☐ Comply with the rules and regulations of the substance abuse treatment provider, including name of program. Do not leave the program without the permission of the probation officer.

THE DEFENDANT PROMISES TO APPEAR:

Department No:

Date:

Time:

Reason:

Review Hearing:

Location:

**Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive, Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-1010**

Defendant: _____ Date & Time: _____

Witness: _____ Date & Time: _____