



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COURT TO PROVIDE VCOURT TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE SERVICE FREE OF CHARGE USING ONE-TIME COVID STATE BUDGET FUNDING

Presiding Judge Robert Westbrook today announced the Court will suspend the \$94 fee for VCourt, the Court's telephonic appearance platform. Effective October 18, 2021, parties and counsel will not be required to pay the VCourt fee to appear remotely for case management conferences, law and motion hearings; and ex parte hearings in Civil and Probate cases. The Court has elected to devote some of the one-time state budget funds provided by the Legislature for COVID-related backlogs to cover the cost of VCourt to encourage the use of remote appearances. This will assist the Court in addressing its backlog of pending cases, while also helping the Court in its ongoing efforts to strongly encourage remote appearances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 funding in the FY 2021/2022 state budget, allows the Court to make VCourt available to litigants in Civil cases and reduces the number of people that are required to appear in Court for their hearings," Presiding Judge Westbrook said.

The VCourt fee waiver program will be available to parties and counsel who register for a telephonic appearance on or after October 18, 2021. The program will continue through December 17, 2021.