SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING
REMOTE APPEARANCE FEES

GENERAL ORDER 2022-001

(Gov. Code §68115)

CR-22-999999

On October 12, 2021, in General Order 2021-019, and again on December 15, 2021, in General Order 2021-023, the Stanislaus County Superior Court ("Court") entered orders suspending the fee to appear remotely using VCourt, the Court's remote appearance platform.

The basis for the Court's previous orders was stated as follows:

"On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council of California approved Emergency Rule of Court 3—"use of technology for remote appearances"—which provides, at Rule 3(a)(1) that "courts may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely." Rule 3(a)(3) also provides that "conducting proceedings remotely includes, but is not limited to, the use of ... telephonic means for remote appearances"

Emergency Rule 3 was amended on January 1, 2022, and while the Court may continue to conduct remote proceedings in civil matters, it no longer may mandate remote proceedings.

However, given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Due to the ongoing public health emergency, the Court wishes to encourage as many civil litigants as possible to appear remotely; and therefore
- 2. The Court extends the suspension of the fee to appear remotely using VCourt, the Court's remote appearance platform, through January 31, 2022; and
- The Court will review the need to encourage remote appearances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic within the next thirty (30) days.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 11, 2022



ROBERT B. WESTBROOK,
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT