

1 SUPERIOR COURT
2 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0302

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8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

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11 IN RE:

12 PERMITTING SAN BERNARDINO
13 COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD
14 SUPPORT SERVICES TO FILE
15 DOCUMENTS WITH ELECTRONIC
16 SIGNATURE

GENERAL ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

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18 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superior Court of California, County of San
19 Bernardino, was closed from March 17, 2020 through May 28, 2020, and only hearing
20 essential, time-sensitive matters in accordance with emergency orders and statewide
21 orders issued by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, countywide and statewide orders
22 issued by the San Bernardino County Public Health Officer and the State Public Health
23 Officer, executive orders issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, and general
24 implementation orders issued by the court.

25 Public health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public
26 Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent
27 social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and they encourage
28 vulnerable individuals to avoid public gatherings and spaces. They have also required

GENERAL ORDER: PERMITTING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
TO FILE DOCUMENTS WITH ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

1 essential businesses to proactively manage social distancing and other safety and
2 health measures. (The State of California has deemed courts essential businesses).
3 These mandates impact the court's ability to provide services, process new and existing
4 case filings, and perform other court work.

5 In her March 30, 2020 statewide orders, the Chief Justice encouraged courts to
6 use technology to conduct judicial proceedings and court operations remotely to protect
7 the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, and
8 witnesses. The San Bernardino County Department of Child Support Services (SBC
9 DCSS) has represented to the court that it has developed a procedure to allow parties
10 to use an electronic signature process that will 1) ensure the voluntary nature of
11 execution of stipulations signed by all necessary parties, 2) ensure the validity of the
12 signature and 3) memorialize the circumstances surrounding the execution of
13 stipulations signed electronically.

14 Consequently, pursuant to California Rule of Court 10.603 and the Chief
15 Justice's March 30, 2020 statewide order, the court HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

16 With the exception of documents which impose a penalty of perjury on the
17 signatory, SBC DCSS may file, and the court shall accept for filing, paper filed
18 documents requiring signatures, including stipulations between SBC DCSS and the
19 parties they serve, that have been executed using electronic signature technology as if
20 bearing original signatures.

21 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

22 Dated this 3rd day of June, 2020.



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25 MICHAEL A. SACHS
26 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
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