VENTURA
SUPERIOR COURT
FILED
FEB 15 2023
BRENDA L. McCORMICK
Executive Officer and Clerk
By: _____ Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: COURT REPORTERS IN FAMILY LAW CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 23.04

Courts across the State are experiencing a severe shortage in the number of court reporters available to transcribe proceedings.[1] California's situation reflects a nationwide problem in which there is an insufficient influx of new reporters to offset those that retire or leave the profession. In recent years, court reporting schools have closed, there are fewer applicants to the schools that remain open, and even fewer individuals that pass the tests necessary to obtain certification.

In the Ventura Superior Court, a fully staffed court reporter department consists of 28 reporters. Despite persistent and vigorous recruiting efforts, the court has been unable to replace those reporters who have left the court due to retirement or resignation. At present, the Court has only 14 full time and three part time reporters available to transcribe proceedings. The Court's available reporters are not enough to staff the proceedings which by law must be reported, such as criminal felony, juvenile matters and requests by parties with fee waivers.

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 128, Government Code section 68070; California Rules of Court, rule 10.603(c), and the inherent powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 55 Cal. 4th 428, 522), and because the Court finds that family law contempt proceedings are quasi-criminal in nature and analogous to misdemeanors (See Code Civ. Proc. §1218(a); *People*

[1] "The Causes, Consequences, and Outlook of the Court Reporter Shortage in California and Beyond", prepared by the California Trial Court Consortium (January 25, 2022).

v. Gonzalez (1996) 12 Cal. 4th 804, 817),

THE COURT THEREFORE FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Court will no longer provide court reporters for contempt proceedings in Family Law cases. Instead, the Court may electronically record such proceedings. (Gov. Code §69957). The portion of Ventura Superior Court Local Rule 18.00.D addressing this issue is temporarily suspended.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 15, 2023. IT WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL IT IS EXTENDED, AMENDED, OR SUPERSEDED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: February 15, 2023

Kevin G. DeNoce
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California,
County of Ventura