

New Administrative Order Regarding Masks

Good Morning friends and colleagues. Friday afternoon Chief Judge Barbera issued the *Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures In Courthouses And Judicial Branch Facilities*. A link to the order is contained with this message.

The Order applies to **all** judicial facilities and all spaces therein. The order is intended to resolve any confusion that resulted in differing applications of the mask/distance requirement in the June 3 amended reopening order. There was information that in some courthouses/courtrooms/hearing rooms judges and litigants were permitted/invited to remove their masks for the duration of proceedings.

The July 31, 2020 order confirms for good cause shown a judge/magistrate may permit temporary removal of a cloth mask for a person when that person is speaking. However, the speaker must wear a disposable make or face shield while speaking.

Anyone who does not comply with the order will be subject to removal from the courthouse/judicial facility. Please review the order carefully and share the requirements with clients and witnesses.

<https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/admin-orders/20200731clarifyingcovid19healthmeasuresincourthousesandjudicialbranchfacilities.pdf>

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation as the judiciary seeks to balance resolution of the criminal civil important legal processes with safely providing services during the ongoing pandemic.

Sincerely,
Patricia Mitchell, Administrative Judge