



Judicial Council of California

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INVITATION TO COMMENT

SPR26-14

Title

Civil Practice and Procedure: Statement of Decision Rules and Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 515

Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes

Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.1590 and 3.1591; approve forms CIV-175, CIV-175-INFO, CIV-176, and CIV-177

Proposed by

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Chair

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

Hon. Tari L. Cody, Cochair

Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey, Cochair

Action Requested

Review and submit comments by May 18, 2026, to invitations@jud.ca.gov

Proposed Effective Date

January 1, 2027

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Executive Summary and Origin

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee propose amending two rules of court and approving four Judicial Council forms relating to statements of decision. The proposal implements Assembly Bill 515 (Stats. 2025, ch. 559), which amends Code of Civil Procedure sections 632 and 664. AB 515 makes numerous changes to the procedures regarding statements of decision. The bill also directs the Judicial Council to adopt or amend rules of court consistent with the statutory changes and to prepare forms that may be used to request a statement of decision and that explain the requirements for making that request.

This proposal has not been approved by the Judicial Council and is not intended to represent the views of the council, its Rules Committee, or its Legislation Committee. It is circulated for comment purposes only.

Background

In a bench trial, a statement of decision is the document in which the trial court explains “the factual and legal basis for its decision as to each of the principal controverted issues at trial.”¹ The trial court is only required to issue a statement of decision after a timely request of a party who appears at trial.² A statement of decision can be particularly important if a party seeks to appeal the court’s decision, as described in an article written by a certified appellate law specialist.³

Requesting and preparing a statement of decision

Currently, much of the process for preparing statements of decision is found in rule 3.1590. Consistent with the current language of Code of Civil Procedure section 632, the rule specifies a timeline for requesting a statement of decision that runs from the announcement or service of a tentative decision. Rule 3.1590 sets out a complex process including tentative decisions, statements of decision, proposed judgments, and, finally, signing and filing the judgment. Rule 3.1591 specifies how these processes work in a bifurcated proceeding.

Given the importance of the statement of decision for appeals, it would be ideal if the process for requesting and preparing the document were clear and understandable.⁴

Assembly Bill 515

AB 515 (Link A) seeks to simplify the process for requesting and issuing statements of decision and provide more clarity and flexibility to courts.⁵ The bill creates a single timeline for requesting a statement of decision.⁶ Currently, Code of Civil Procedure section 632 has two different timelines; the application of the timelines depends on the length of the trial.⁷ To avoid

¹ Code Civ. Proc., § 632.

² *Ibid.*

³ Herb Fox, “The Statement of Decision” (December 2014) *Advocate Magazine*, advocatemagazine.com/article/2014-december/the-statement-of-decision.

⁴ Unfortunately, in the words of one commentator, the current procedures for perfecting the statement are “byzantine” and reading the governing laws and rules “lead[s] only to eyestrain.” *Ibid.*

⁵ Sen. Judiciary Com., Analysis of Assem. Bill 515 (July 11, 2025), p. 1, leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB515.

⁶ Assem. Floor Analysis of Assem. Bill 515 (Sept. 10, 2025), p. 2, leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB515 (hereafter AB 515 Assem. Floor Analysis).

⁷ Code of Civil Procedure section 632(a) currently states, in relevant part: “The request [for a statement of decision] must be made within 10 days after the court announces a tentative decision unless the trial is concluded within one calendar day or in less than eight hours over more than one day in which event the request must be made prior to the submission of the matter for decision.”

disputes and confusion about how to calculate the trial time,⁸ AB 515 amends the law so that, in any bench trial, a request for a statement of decision is timely if made before the submission of the matter for decision.

AB 515 provides courts with flexibility to adjust the different times in Code of Civil Procedure section 632. Specifically, the court is expressly authorized to extend the times by written order, excuse noncompliance with any time limits, or, in the case of Family Code matters, shorten the times by written order.⁹

Importantly, AB 515 incorporates new content into section 632, providing more details on the statement of decision process and provisions specifying when a statement of decision becomes final. Some of the new content is derived from rule 3.1590.¹⁰

AB 515 directs the Judicial Council to make conforming rule changes to implement section 632 and to create related forms.

Finally, AB 515 would specify different timeframes for a clerk to enter judgment depending on whether a statement of decision was requested.¹¹

The Proposal

The rules and forms included in this proposal respond to AB 515's direction that the Judicial Council "adopt or amend all rules of court necessary to implement [section 632]" and prepare "forms that a party may use to request a statement of decision and that explain the requirements prescribed by [section 632] on requesting a statement of decision."¹²

⁸ A bill analysis for AB 515 describes a Court of Appeal opinion (*Atlantic Richfield Co. v Cal. Regional Water Quality Control Bd.* (2022) 85 Cal.App.5th 338) that discusses uncertainties about how to calculate the trial time (to determine which deadline for requesting a statement of decision applies). See AB 515 Assem. Floor Analysis, *supra* note 6, at p. 2.

⁹ Code Civ. Proc., § 632(g). Unless otherwise indicated, references to code sections refer to the Code of Civil Procedure sections added by AB 515 that will become operative on January 1, 2027.

¹⁰ "[AB 515] would codify, and in some ways recast, many of the steps related to the statement of decision set forth in California Rule of Court 3.1590. For example, consistent with this Rule, the bill would do the following: require the statement of decision to be served on all parties; authorize a court to issue a written statement without a request, or to order a party to prepare a draft statement of decision; and set forth procedures and a timeline for a party to object to a statement of decision, and the consequences of objecting or not objecting." (AB 515 Assem. Floor Analysis, *supra* note 6, at p. 2.)

¹¹ Code of Civil Procedure section 664(b) will require judgment to be entered within 30 days after the filing of the court's decision (if no statement of decision is requested) or within 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final (if a statement of decision is requested).

¹² Code Civ. Proc., § 632(h).

Amendments to rules of court to implement AB 515

Rule 3.1590 is the main rule governing statements of decision (and the associated documents and processes for preparing those documents). Rule 3.1591 provides supporting provisions that describe the application of these provisions in bifurcated proceedings.

Possible repeal of rules 3.1590 and 3.1591

The committees considered the possibility of repealing the rules governing statements of decision altogether. Complete repeal of the rules may be appropriate if the new law is intended to provide a complete, comprehensive framework, such that any issues not addressed by the law were intended to be left to the discretion of the courts. The committees identified certain issues that were not addressed in the law and propose rule language that could address those issues. However, the committees seek specific comment on whether the rules should be repealed altogether.

Existing content of rule 3.1590 and proposed amendments

The committees propose that the content of rule 3.1590, with the exception of subdivision (m), concerning the court's authority to extend or excuse noncompliance with timeframes,¹³ generally not be retained for the reasons described below:

- Subdivisions (a)–(c), concerning the tentative decision: AB 515 changed the timeframe to request a statement of decision so that it would no longer run from the issuance of the tentative decision. With AB 515's changes, section 632 no longer refers to the tentative decision at all. For this reason, the committees propose removing the tentative decision content from the rule. The committees request specific comment on whether there is any reason that this content should remain in the rule.
- Subdivision (d), concerning the request for a statement of decision: With the changes made by AB 515, the content in this subdivision would be stricken as either incorrect (timeframe to request a statement of decision) or duplicative of the law (required contents of a request).
- Subdivision (e), concerning a response to a request for a statement of decision: Currently, section 632 includes the following sentence: "After a party has requested the statement [of decision], any party may make proposals as to the content of the statement of decision." Section 632 as of January 1, 2027, will not include this sentence. In light of this statutory deletion, the content of subdivision (e) would be stricken from the rule.
- Subdivision (f), concerning the preparation and service of a statement of decision and proposed judgment: When a statement of decision is requested, this subdivision requires concurrent preparation of a statement of decision and proposed judgment. However, under AB 515, the proposed judgment may be prepared "before or after the statement of

¹³ The court's authority to change timeframes would be expanded, consistent with AB 515's changes. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 632(g)(2).) This content would be located in proposed subdivision (f) of rule 3.1590.

decision is final.” (§ 632(f)(1).) Therefore, the content of this subdivision, requiring concurrent preparation of these documents, is inconsistent with the law and would be stricken.

- Subdivisions (g) and (j), concerning objections to the statement of decision and proposed judgment: AB 515 incorporates into the law timeframes for objections. (§ 632(e)(1), (f)(2).) The timeframes would be removed from the rule to avoid duplicative content.
- Subdivisions (h) and (i), concerning the preparation of a proposed judgment when a statement of decision is not prepared:
 - AB 515 changes the law such that the concurrent preparation of the statement of decision and proposed judgment is no longer consistent with the law. In light of that change, this rule content, which presumes concurrent preparation, is inconsistent with the law and would therefore be stricken from the rule.
 - AB 515 specifies that the court may prepare a proposed judgment, while the rule currently specifies that a proposed judgment must be prepared. With this change, the rule is inconsistent with the law and, therefore, the rule language would be stricken.
- Subdivision (k), concerning a hearing on proposals or objections to the statement of decision or proposed judgment: As amended by AB 515, section 632(e)(3) provides that a court may set a hearing on timely filed objections to a statement of decision. Section 632 does not otherwise provide for a hearing to be set for the statement of decision or proposed judgment. The committees concluded that the rule should not include any content on hearings, as the statute addresses the issue.
- Subdivision (l), concerning the signing and filing of the judgment:
 - This subdivision provides a timeframe for the court to sign and file the judgment and specifies that the signed and filed judgment constitutes the court’s decision, on which judgment must be entered by the clerk as specified in section 664.
 - AB 515 does not provide a timeframe for the court to sign and file the judgment. Given that, the rule also would not include a timeframe for this step of the process.
- Subdivision (n), concerning requests and statements of decision in short trials: AB 515 eliminates the different timeframes for requesting a statement of decision in a short trial. AB 515 also incorporates the special authority to make an oral statement of decision in short trials into the law. The committees concluded that subdivision (n) should be deleted in its entirety as either incorrect (with respect to the request timeframe) or duplicative of the law (with respect to the oral statement of decision).

Proposed content of rule 3.1590

The committees recommend significantly revising and redrafting rule 3.1590 as described below. Some of the proposed subdivisions refer to the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure without providing further detail or explanation. The committees note that, if the rule is needed to provide further detail for any steps of the process, it may be helpful to include some procedural steps (with reference to the governing statute) to facilitate understanding and help courts and litigants navigate the statement of decision and proposed judgment processes.

The committees seek specific comment on whether the proposed subdivisions of rule 3.1590 provide helpful or necessary content. The committees also seek specific comment on which, if any, of these proposed subdivisions should not be included in the rule going forward.

- **Subdivision (a)** would address the request for a statement of decision. Proposed subdivision (a) specifies that a request must satisfy the requirements of section 632 and may be made on the proposed new form CIV-175, *Request for Statement of Decision*.
- **Subdivision (b)** would specify a timeframe for the preparation of a statement of decision (where one has been requested under section 632).¹⁴ Specifically, proposed paragraph (b)(1) requires that, when a statement of decision is requested, the court prepare a statement of decision within 90 days of the matter being submitted for decision. Alternatively, the court may order a party to prepare a draft statement of decision and proposed paragraph (b)(2) specifies a default timeframe of 30 days (from submission of the matter) for the party to prepare the draft. The court can change these timeframes (see subdivision (f), below) or, when ordering a party to prepare a draft, specify a different timeframe. This subdivision would make clear that the court must serve a statement of decision after a party prepares a draft, as section 632(e)(1) specifies that the timeframe for objections begins after the court serves a statement of decision. This subdivision also specifies the court's options if the party ordered to prepare a draft statement fails to timely submit the draft.

The committees seek specific comment on whether the rule should include a timeframe for a court to prepare a statement of decision, as proposed in paragraph (b)(1), and, if so, whether that timeframe should instead apply to the court's issuance of the statement of decision, regardless of whether the statement was initially prepared by the court or a draft was prepared by a party.

- **Subdivision (c)** would specify that a court may prepare and serve (or order a party to prepare and serve) a proposed judgment, consistent with the language of section 632(f).

¹⁴ The committees also propose an advisory committee comment to subdivision (b) that refers to rule 2.900, which specifies when a cause is deemed submitted. This comment is intended to assist courts and litigants with interpreting the timeframe specified in section 632.

- **Subdivision (d)** would specify that any party may object to the statement of decision or proposed judgment, as provided in section 632.¹⁵ Similar to proposed subdivision (a), this subdivision would provide that objections may be made on the proposed new form CIV-176, *Objection to Statement of Decision*, or form CIV-177, *Objection to Proposed Judgment*, as appropriate.
- **Subdivision (e)** would require the court to sign and file the judgment to enable the clerk to timely enter judgment under section 664. As amended by AB 515, section 664 sets different timelines for the clerk to enter judgment depending on whether a statement of decision was requested.¹⁶ The committees note that, where a statement of decision is requested and prepared, the timeframe specified in section 664(b)(2) requires the judgment to be entered “within 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final.” If the proposed judgment is prepared after the statement of decision becomes final (as permitted under section 632(f)) and there are objections to the proposed judgment, the court may have very little time to consider and rule on those objections before the judgment must be signed and filed, so that the timeframe in section 664 can be met.¹⁷

In light of this potentially short timeframe for a court to sign and file the judgment, the committees seek specific comment on whether it would be helpful to include the 30-day statutory timeframe in the rule or note the timeframe in an advisory comment to the rule. The committees offer specific rule and comment language that could address this issue in the discussion of Alternatives Considered on page 10.

- **Subdivision (f)** would continue much of the substance of existing subdivision (m), which allows the court to extend timeframes or excuse noncompliance with the timeframes under specified conditions. This provision would also include new text authorizing the court to shorten the timeframes in actions under the Family Code, for consistency with the court’s authority in section 632(g). The committees note that this subdivision should be included if the rule will contain any timeframes that the court may want to adjust, as the statutory authority only extends to the timeframes in section 632.

Rule 3.1591

Currently, rule 3.1591 specifies how the procedures in rule 3.1590 (for tentative decision, statement of decision, proposed judgment, and signed and filed judgment) would apply in a bifurcated proceeding. The law does not address how the statement of decision process should

¹⁵ The committees note that section 632 requires the court to serve the statement of decision to commence the 10-day timeframe for objections; for a proposed judgment, however, section 632 does not specify that court service is required to commence the objection timeframe.

¹⁶ Currently, section 664 requires the clerk to enter judgment “in conformity to the decision of the court, immediately upon the filing of such decision.”

¹⁷ Note: The court’s authority to extend timeframes by written order in section 632(g)(1) only applies to the timeframes in section 632.

work for a bifurcated proceeding. Therefore, it may be helpful to retain rule 3.1591, with some revisions consistent with the changes made by AB 515.

The committees propose the following revisions to rule 3.1591 to reflect the changes made by AB 515:

- **Subdivision (a)** would be revised to delete text that requires a tentative decision (as tentative decisions are no longer required as part of the statement of decision process) and delete a reference to rule 3.1590 as the provision governing the issuance of a statement of decision (section 632 now governs much of the statement of decision process).
- **Subdivision (b)** would be revised to replace text that would require each judge trying part of a bifurcated proceeding to “perform all acts required by rule 3.1590” to instead require the judge to prepare and finalize a statement of decision (if one is requested).

New forms to implement AB 515

Currently, there is no Judicial Council form to request a statement of decision or that provides information on how to request a statement of decision. To implement AB 515, the committees propose that the Judicial Council approve four forms for optional use.

Request for Statement of Decision (form CIV-175)

Parties could use proposed form CIV-175 to ask the court to issue a statement of decision. This one-page form includes the standard case caption information and items to gather key information about the request (party making the request, governing law, and principal controverted issues that a party seeks the court to address in the statement of decision). Consistent with AB 515’s direction to prepare a form that parties “may” use, the committees propose that this form be optional rather than mandatory.

The committees considered whether the form should be drafted so that it could be used to request additional issues be included in a statement of decision (after a request had been made). The committees considered that after January 1, 2027, section 632 will no longer specify that “[a]fter a party has requested the statement [of decision], any party may make proposals as to the content of the statement of decision.” Thus, the committees do not propose to include an option on form CIV-175 for a party to propose additional content for the statement of decision. Instead, the form was drafted so that it could be used by any party to ask the court for a statement of decision before the matter is submitted to the court for decision.

Statement of Decision Information Sheet (form CIV-175-INFO)

This four-page form explains the statement of decision process, as specified in section 632. It contains a series of questions and answers about asking for, and objecting to, a statement of decision. The information sheet includes links to section 632, rules 3.1590 and 3.1591, proposed new forms CIV-175 and CIV-176, and other resources.

Additional forms

In addition to the two forms above that AB 515 requires the Judicial Council to prepare, the committees propose two additional forms for parties to use to make objections, as provided for in section 632:

- *Objection to Statement of Decision* (form CIV-176) is a one-page form that a party can use to object to a statement of decision. Proposed form CIV-176 includes instructions to help a party understand how to draft the objections and request amendments to the court's statement of decision. The form would include a notice that explains the purpose of objecting to a statement of decision and describes the proper use of objections.¹⁸
- *Objection to Proposed Judgment* (form CIV-177) is a one-page form that a party may use to object to a proposed judgment. The committees propose that the form include a notice specifying that the form can only be used to object to a proposed judgment in a bench trial under section 632(f)(2) and cannot be used if a jury trial was held.

Although AB 515 does not require the development of these proposed new forms, the committees concluded that the forms would be helpful to litigants, particularly those who are self-represented, who seek to file objections

Alternatives Considered

The committees did not consider taking no action, as AB 515 requires the Judicial Council to make rule revisions and create specified forms. Without revisions, rule 3.1590 would be inconsistent with the law on January 1, 2027. Rule 3.1591 also requires conforming revisions.

The committees considered different rule revisions to implement AB 515. As indicated previously, the committees considered the possibility (and are seeking specific comment on) repealing the rules governing statements of decision. The committees propose revised rule language to address certain issues that the law does not expressly cover. In drafting the proposed revisions, the committees sought to eliminate the rule content that would be in conflict with or duplicative of the statute. The proposed rules instead refer to section 632 or section 664 where appropriate. To help determine the appropriate content of the rules, the committees decided to seek specific comment on certain issues. For instance, the committees discussed whether the rule should include a timeframe for the court to prepare a statement of decision and the appropriate length of that timeframe (see proposed rule 3.1590(b)(1) and associated request for specific comment).

¹⁸ Specifically, the notice would indicate that the purpose of objecting to the court's statement of decision is to identify any principal controverted issues that the court did not address, topics that are not clear or are inconsistent, or findings or conclusions that are not supported by the evidence presented at the trial. A party should not file an objection to argue the case again or to express disagreement with the court's findings and conclusions that are supported by the evidence at the trial.

The committees considered different approaches for drafting proposed subdivision (e) of rule 3.1590, in light of the potentially short timeframe for a court to sign and file the judgment, consistent with the requirements of sections 632 and 664. In particular, subdivision (e) could alternatively be drafted to read as follows (strikeout text and underscoring indicate the differences from the proposed language in the attached rule document):

Upon resolution of the procedures specified in (b), (c), and (d) for a statement of decision and proposed judgment, and in no event more than 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final, the court must ~~thereafter~~ sign and file the judgment ~~to enable the clerk to timely enter judgment under Code of Civil Procedure section 664(b)~~. The signed and filed judgment of the court constitutes the court's decision on which judgment is to be entered by the clerk under Code of Civil Procedure section 664(b). An electronic signature by the court is as effective as an original signature.

Or, the 30-day timeframe could be noted in an advisory comment, which could state:

Subdivision (e). Under Code of Civil Procedure section 664(b)(2), when a statement of decision is requested, the clerk is required to enter judgment “within 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final.”

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee anticipates that this proposal to implement AB 515 would require courts to train court staff and judicial officers on amended statutes, rules, and new forms. Courts will also incur costs to integrate the new forms into paper or electronic processes, develop internal procedures, update their case management systems, and, if applicable, create new forms packets and other materials for self-help centers to instruct parties on how to complete the forms. To the extent that the proposed changes to the rules and forms are needed to implement the statute, these impacts cannot be avoided.

Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committees are interested in comments on the following:

- Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?
- In light of the changes made by AB 515 to sections 632 and 664, should the proposed content in rules 3.1590 and 3.1591 be retained or should the rules be repealed in their entirety? (*Explain.*)
- Existing rule 3.1590(a)–(c), which the committees recommend striking, governs tentative decisions. With AB 515, tentative decisions are no longer part of the statement of decision process. Is there any reason that the tentative decision provisions should be retained in the rule? (*If so, explain.*)
- Proposed rule 3.1590(b)(1) includes a 90-day timeframe for the court to prepare a statement of decision after one has been requested.
 - Is it helpful to include a timeframe for the court’s preparation of a statement of decision in the rule? If so, is the proposed timeframe of 90 days appropriate? (*If not, explain.*)
 - Should the proposed timeframe in rule 3.1590(b)(1) instead apply to the court’s issuance of a statement of decision, regardless of whether the statement was initially prepared by the court or a party was ordered to prepare a draft statement?
- Proposed rule 3.1590(e) relates to the court’s signing and filing of the judgment. Section 664(b)(2) sets a timeframe for the clerk to enter the judgment (30 days after the statement of decision becomes final). To meet this timeframe, the court may have little time to finalize the judgment. Would it be helpful to include the 30-day timeframe either in the language of the rule or in an advisory comment to ensure courts and litigants are aware of this statutory timeframe?

The advisory committees also seek comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?
- Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.1590 and 3.1591, at pages 13–18
2. Forms CIV-175, CIV-175-INFO, CIV-176, and CIV-177, at pages 19–25
3. Link A: Assem. Bill 515 (Stats. 2025, ch. 559),
leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB515

Rules 3.1590 and 3.1591 of the California Rules of Court would be amended, effective January 1, 2027, to read:

1 Title 3. Civil Rules

2
3 Division 15. Trial

4
5 Chapter 9. Statement of Decision

6
7
8 **Rule 3.1590. ~~Announcement of tentative decision, Statement of decision, and~~**
9 **~~judgment~~**

10
11 **~~(a) Announcement and service of tentative decision~~**

12
13 ~~On the trial of a question of fact by the court, the court must announce its tentative~~
14 ~~decision by an oral statement, entered in the minutes, or by a written statement filed~~
15 ~~with the clerk. Unless the announcement is made in open court in the presence of~~
16 ~~all parties that appeared at the trial, the clerk must immediately serve on all parties~~
17 ~~that appeared at the trial a copy of the minute entry or written tentative decision.~~

18
19 **~~(b) Tentative decision not binding~~**

20
21 ~~The tentative decision does not constitute a judgment and is not binding on the~~
22 ~~court. If the court subsequently modifies or changes its announced tentative~~
23 ~~decision, the clerk must serve a copy of the modification or change on all parties~~
24 ~~that appeared at the trial.~~

25
26 **~~(c) Provisions in tentative decision~~**

27
28 ~~The court in its tentative decision may:~~

- 29
30 ~~(1) State that it is the court's proposed statement of decision, subject to a party's~~
31 ~~objection under (g);~~
32
33 ~~(2) Indicate that the court will prepare a statement of decision;~~
34
35 ~~(3) Order a party to prepare a statement of decision; or~~
36
37 ~~(4) Direct that the tentative decision will become the statement of decision~~
38 ~~unless, within 10 days after announcement or service of the tentative~~
39 ~~decision, a party specifies those principal controverted issues as to which the~~
40 ~~party is requesting a statement of decision or makes proposals not included in~~
41 ~~the tentative decision.~~

1
2 **(d) Request for statement of decision**

3
4 ~~Within 10 days after announcement or service of the tentative decision, whichever~~
5 ~~is later, any party that appeared at trial may request a statement of decision to~~
6 ~~address the principal controverted issues. The principal controverted issues must be~~
7 ~~specified in the request.~~
8

9 **(e) Other party's response to request for statement of decision**

10
11 ~~If a party requests a statement of decision under (d), any other party may make~~
12 ~~proposals as to the content of the statement of decision within 10 days after the date~~
13 ~~of request for a statement of decision.~~
14

15 **(f) Preparation and service of proposed statement of decision and judgment**

16
17 ~~If a party requests a statement of decision under (d), the court must, within 30 days~~
18 ~~of announcement or service of the tentative decision, prepare and serve a proposed~~
19 ~~statement of decision and a proposed judgment on all parties that appeared at the~~
20 ~~trial, unless the court has ordered a party to prepare the statement. A party that has~~
21 ~~been ordered to prepare the statement must within 30 days after the announcement~~
22 ~~or service of the tentative decision, serve and submit to the court a proposed~~
23 ~~statement of decision and a proposed judgment. If the proposed statement of~~
24 ~~decision and judgment are not served and submitted within that time, any other~~
25 ~~party that appeared at the trial may within 10 days thereafter: (1) prepare, serve,~~
26 ~~and submit to the court a proposed statement of decision and judgment or (2) serve~~
27 ~~on all other parties and file a notice of motion for an order that a statement of~~
28 ~~decision be deemed waived.~~
29

30 **(g) Objections to proposed statement of decision**

31
32 ~~Any party may, within 15 days after the proposed statement of decision and~~
33 ~~judgment have been served, serve and file objections to the proposed statement of~~
34 ~~decision or judgment.~~
35

36 **(h) Preparation and filing of written judgment when statement of decision not**
37 **prepared**

38
39 ~~If no party requests or is ordered to prepare a statement of decision and a written~~
40 ~~judgment is required, the court must prepare and serve a proposed judgment on all~~
41 ~~parties that appeared at the trial within 20 days after the announcement or service of~~
42 ~~the tentative decision or the court may order a party to prepare, serve, and submit~~
43 ~~the proposed judgment to the court within 10 days after the date of the order.~~

1
2 **(i) Preparation and filing of written judgment when statement of decision deemed**
3 **waived**

4
5 If the court orders that the statement of decision is deemed waived and a written
6 judgment is required, the court must, within 10 days of the order deeming the
7 statement of decision waived, either prepare and serve a proposed judgment on all
8 parties that appeared at the trial or order a party to prepare, serve, and submit the
9 proposed judgment to the court within 10 days.

10
11 **(j) Objection to proposed judgment**

12
13 Any party may, within 10 days after service of the proposed judgment, serve and
14 file objections thereto.

15
16 **(k) Hearing**

17
18 The court may order a hearing on proposals or objections to a proposed statement
19 of decision or the proposed judgment.

20
21 **(l) Signature and filing of judgment**

22
23 If a written judgment is required, the court must sign and file the judgment within
24 50 days after the announcement or service of the tentative decision, whichever is
25 later, or, if a hearing was held under (k), within 10 days after the hearing. An
26 electronic signature by the court is as effective as an original signature. The
27 judgment constitutes the decision on which judgment is to be entered under Code
28 of Civil Procedure section 664.

29
30 **(a) Request for statement of decision**

31
32 A request for a statement of decision must satisfy the requirements of Code of Civil
33 Procedure section 632(a). Request for Statement of Decision (form CIV-175) may
34 be used for making a request.

35
36 **(b) Preparation and service of statement of decision**

37
38 (1) If a party requests a statement of decision under Code of Civil Procedure
39 section 632(a), the court must, within 90 days of the submission of the matter
40 for decision, prepare and serve a statement of decision on all parties that
41 appeared at the trial, unless the court has ordered a party to prepare a draft
42 statement of decision.

1 (2) Unless the court has specified a different time period, a party that has been
2 ordered to prepare a draft statement of decision must file and serve the draft
3 within 30 days after the submission of the matter for decision.

4
5 (A) If the draft statement of decision is not filed and served within that
6 time, the court may prepare and serve a statement of decision, order
7 another party to prepare a draft statement of decision, or, if the party
8 who failed to prepare the draft was the only party who timely requested
9 a statement of decision, order that the statement of decision is deemed
10 waived.

11
12 (B) If the draft statement of decision is filed and served within that time,
13 the court must thereafter issue and serve a statement of decision on the
14 parties.

15
16 **(c) Preparation and service of proposed judgment**

17
18 The court may prepare and serve a proposed judgment on all parties that appeared
19 at the trial or the court may order a party to, within the time specified by the court,
20 prepare, serve, and lodge the proposed judgment as provided in Code of Civil
21 Procedure section 632(f).

22
23 **(d) Objection to statement of decision or proposed judgment**

24
25 Any party may object to a statement of decision or proposed judgment as provided
26 in Code of Civil Procedure section 632(e) and (f). *Objection to Statement of*
27 *Decision* (form CIV-176) may be used for objecting to a statement of decision.
28 *Objection to Proposed Judgment* (form CIV-177) may be used for objecting to a
29 proposed judgment.

30
31 **(e) Signing and filing of judgment**

32
33 Upon resolution of the procedures specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 632
34 and this rule for preparing and finalizing a statement of decision and for preparing
35 and resolving objections, if any, to a proposed judgment, the court must thereafter
36 sign and file the judgment to enable the clerk to timely enter judgment under Code
37 of Civil Procedure section 664(b). An electronic signature by the court is as
38 effective as an original signature.

39
40 **(f) Extension of time; relief from noncompliance; shortening time**

41
42 (1) The court may, by written order, extend any of the times prescribed by this
43 rule and.

1 (2) At any time before the entry of judgment, the court may, for good cause
2 shown and on such terms as may be just, excuse a noncompliance with the
3 time limits prescribed for doing any act required by this rule.

4
5 (3) In any action under the Family Code, the court may, by written order and
6 upon a finding of good cause, shorten any of the times prescribed by this rule.

7
8 **(n) ~~Trial within one day~~**

9
10 ~~When a trial is completed within one day or in less than eight hours over more than~~
11 ~~one day, a request for statement of decision must be made before the matter is~~
12 ~~submitted for decision and the statement of decision may be made orally on the~~
13 ~~record in the presence of the parties.~~

14
15 **Advisory Committee Comment**

16
17 **Subdivision (b).** A request for a statement of decision is timely under Code of Civil Procedure
18 section 632(a) if made “prior to the submission of the matter for decision.” Rule 2.900 describes
19 when a cause is deemed submitted in a trial court.

20
21
22 **Rule 3.1591. Statement of decision, judgment, and motion for new trial following**
23 **bifurcated trial**

24
25 **(a) Separate trial of an issue**

26
27 When a factual issue raised by the pleadings is tried by the court separately and
28 before the trial of other issues, the judge conducting the separate trial ~~must~~
29 ~~announce the tentative decision on the issue so tried and~~ must, when requested
30 under Code of Civil Procedure section 632, issue a statement of decision as
31 ~~prescribed in rule 3.1590;~~ but the court must not prepare any proposed judgment
32 until the other issues are tried, except when an interlocutory judgment or a separate
33 judgment may otherwise be properly entered at that time.

34
35 **(b) Trial of issues by a different judge**

36
37 If the other issues are tried by a different judge or judges, each judge must ~~perform~~
38 ~~all acts required by rule 3.1590, if a request is made as specified in Code of Civil~~
39 Procedure section 632, prepare and finalize a statement of decision as to the issues
40 tried by that judge ~~and the judge trying the final issue must prepare the proposed~~
41 ~~judgment.~~

1 **(c) Trial of subsequent issues before issuance of statement of decision**

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

A judge may proceed with the trial of subsequent issues before the issuance of a statement of decision on previously tried issues. Any motion for a new trial following a bifurcated trial must be made after all the issues are tried and, if the issues were tried by different judges, each judge must hear and determine the motion as to the issues tried by that judge.

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT NOT APPROVED BY THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL 03/20/2026
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: OTHER PARTY/PARENT:	
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF DECISION	CASE NUMBER:
Notice: A request for a statement of decision must be made before the matter is submitted for decision by the court or by the date the court ordered. Read form CIV-175-INFO to learn more about statements of decision.	

1. **(Name):**

- Plaintiff/Petitioner
 Defendant/Respondent
 Other Party/Parent

who appeared in court at the bench trial, requests that the court issue a statement of decision as specified in item 3.

2. This request is made under Code of Civil Procedure section 632 and (check any other statutes that apply):

- a. Family Code section 3022.3
 b. Family Code section 3654
 c. Other (specify):

3. **Request**

I request that the court issue a statement of decision explaining the factual and legal basis for its decision as to the controverted (disputed) issues raised at trial listed below in Attachment 2.

(Specify the disputed legal or factual issues raised at trial that you want the court to address in its statement of decision. Use a separate number or letter for each issue you specify. You may use the space below to specify the issues or you may list each issue on a separate page labeled "Attachment 2" and attach it to this form. Form [MC-025](#), Attachment, may be used for this purpose.)

4. Number of pages attached:

Date:

Type or Print Name



Signature

This form provides information for parties about statements of decision under Code of Civil Procedure section 632 and rules 3.1590 and 3.1591 of the California Rules of Court.

1 What is a statement of decision?

A statement of decision is issued by the court to explain the factual and legal basis for its decision as to the principal controverted (disputed) issues in a trial without a jury (a bench trial). A statement of decision can be oral (in limited circumstances) or written.

2 Who can ask for a statement of decision?

Any party who appeared at the bench trial can ask for a statement of decision.

3 Why ask for a statement of decision?

The law does not require the court to issue a statement of decision on its own. So, asking for a statement of decision may be the only way for a party to obtain the court's written findings of fact and legal bases for its decisions.

A party may also decide to ask for a statement of decision to:

- Identify any potential errors for the court to consider before it enters a final judgment.
- Help the Court of Appeal determine if the trial court's decision is supported by the facts and the law.

4 Is the court required to issue a statement of decision if a party asks?

The court must issue a statement of decision if a party who appeared at the trial asks for one before the matter is submitted for decision. This applies to all general civil cases, including those filed in family, probate, and juvenile court.

In addition, the family court must issue a statement of decision (if a party asks for one) for a trial or request for order about:

- Custody of a minor child. (Fam. Code, § 3022.3.)
- Modifying, terminating, or setting aside a support order. (Fam. Code, § 3654.)

5 When is the deadline to ask for a statement of decision?

To ensure that the court will issue a statement of decision, a request must be made before the matter at trial is submitted to the court for decision.

Under rule 2.900(a) of the California Rules of Court, a matter is "submitted to the court" on the first of the following dates:

- The date that the court orders the matter submitted; or
- The date the final paper must be filed or the date the argument is heard, whichever is later.

6 Can the deadline to ask for a statement of decision be changed?

Yes, the court may:

- By written order, extend the time to file and serve the request for a statement of decision; and
- Accept a late request for a statement of decision. The court can only accept a late request if it finds a good reason, so a party should explain in writing why the request was late.

7 What happens if a party's request for a statement of decision is not made on time?

If a request is not made on time, and the court has not allowed a party to file a late request, the court may announce its ruling on all issues without a statement of decision. Alternatively, the court may decide to issue a statement of decision even though no party requested one.



8 How can the parties ask for a statement of decision?

A party asking for a statement of decision:

- May make an oral request when an official transcript of what happened in court is being created by a court reporter (or electronic recording).
- Must, for a written request, have the request served on all parties who appeared at trial and file it with the clerk of the court. Each party may use form [CIV-175](#) (*Request for Statement of Decision*) to ask for a statement of decision.
- Must identify the controverted (disputed) issues that the party is asking the court to address in its statement of decision. To do so, the party can list questions for the court to address in its statement of decision.

9 What are examples of the kinds of questions that a party can list in the request for a statement of decision?

Below are examples of the kinds of questions that a party can include in the request:

- What was the basis for concluding that... ?
- Does [specify statute] apply? If not, why?
- Did petitioner establish by a preponderance of the evidence that... ?
- What are the court’s reasons for granting or denying the child custody orders requested by petitioner?
- Does the court find that the respondent told the truth about the search for employment? If not, why not?

10 Can a party request that issues be included in a statement of decision after a different party has filed and served a request for a statement of decision?

Yes. Before the matter is submitted for decision, the other party may submit a request for a statement of decision that identifies additional or different issues for the court to address.

The party may use form [CIV-175](#) to ask that the court address additional issues in its statement of decision that the other party did not include in their request.

11 After the request is made, who prepares a statement of decision?

After the request is made, the court may either:

- Issue and serve a statement of decision on all parties that appeared at the trial; or
- Order a party to prepare a draft statement of decision, serve it on all parties that appeared at the trial, and file it with the court.

If the court orders a party to prepare a draft statement of decision, the court will review and decide whether to adopt or make changes to it before issuing and serving its statement of decision on the parties.

Rule 3.1590(b) provides more detail on the process of preparing a statement of decision (see [18](#)).

12 If a party is ordered to prepare a draft statement of decision, how much time does the party have to serve and file it?

Unless the court specifies a different time period, the party has 30 days after the matter is submitted for decision to prepare, serve, and file a draft statement of decision.



13 What happens if a party ordered to prepare a draft statement of decision does not prepare it in time?

In this situation, the court may:

- Prepare and serve a statement of decision;
- Order that another party prepare a draft statement of decision; or
- Order that the statement of decision be deemed waived (not required).

14 Can the court issue an oral statement of decision?

The court generally issues a written statement of decision. The court can issue an oral statement of decision only in the following situations: (1) if all parties agree or (2) the oral statement of decision is made when the parties are present in a short trial (less than 8 hours) that is being transcribed by a court reporter or electronically.

15 What if a party believes that the court's statement of decision is incomplete, incorrect, or unclear?

Any party may file and serve objections to the court's statement of decision within 10 days after the court issues a written or oral statement of decision. Form [CIV-176](#) (*Objection to Statement of Decision*) may be used for this purpose.

Important! The purpose of filing objections to a statement of decision is to identify:

- Any issues that the court did not address;
- Topics in the statement of decision that are not clear or are inconsistent; or
- Findings or conclusions in the statement of decision that are not supported by the evidence presented at the trial.

A party should not use objections to argue the case again or to express disagreement with the court's findings and conclusions that are supported by the evidence presented at the trial.

16 What actions can the court take if a party objects to its statement of decision?

To respond to objections that are timely filed, the court may take any of the following actions:

- Set a hearing.
- Rule on the objections without setting a hearing and serve the ruling on all parties who appeared at the trial.
- Amend the statement, in whole or in part, if the court sustains (agrees with) the objections and serve it on all the parties.
- Not rule on the objections. Any objections not ruled on are deemed overruled, unless the court orders otherwise.

17 When does the statement of decision become final?

Unless the court has ordered a different deadline:

- **No objections.** If no party files objections, the statement becomes final when the time for filing objections has expired (see [15](#)).
- **The court rules on all objections.** If a party files objections, and the court rules on the objections (with or without a hearing), the statement of decision, including any amended statement of decision issued after sustaining (agreeing with) any objection in whole or in part, becomes final when the ruling is issued or as specified in the court's statement of decision.



- **The court does not rule on the objections and does not hold a hearing.** If a party files objections, there was no hearing on the objections, and the court does not rule on the objections, the objections are deemed overruled and the statement of decision becomes final 30 days after the time for objections has expired.
- **The court does not rule on the objections and holds a hearing.** If a party files objections, there was a hearing, and the court does not rule on the objections, the objections are deemed overruled and the statement of decision becomes final on the later of the following dates: 30 days after the time for objections has expired or 30 days after the hearing.

For family law cases, contact your local court’s self-help center for information, assistance, and referrals to local legal services providers. You may find your local court’s self-help center online at: selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/find.

18 Do you have more questions or need help?

Read Code of Civil Procedure section 632 to learn about the statement of decision process. All California Codes may be found at your law library and are available online at: leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml.

Additional procedures are found in rules 3.1590 and 3.1591 of the California Rules of Court. The rules are online at: courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index/three/rule3_1590; and courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index/three/rule3_1591.

You may wish to contact a lawyer to get help with a statement of decision. Find a lawyer through your local bar association, the State Bar of California at www.calbar.ca.gov, or the Lawyer Referral Service at 1-866-442-2529.

For free and low-cost legal help (if you qualify), go to www.lawhelpca.org.

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT NOT APPROVED BY THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL v. 3/20/26 CASE NUMBER:
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: OTHER PARTY/PARENT:	
OBJECTION TO STATEMENT OF DECISION	

Notice: The purpose of objecting to the court's statement of decision is to identify any principal controverted (disputed) issues that the court did not address, topics that are not clear or are inconsistent, or findings or conclusions that are not supported by the evidence presented at the trial. A party should not file an objection to argue the case again or to express disagreement with the court's findings and conclusions that are supported by the evidence presented at the trial. To learn more, read form [CIV-175-INFO](#) (Statement of Decision Information Sheet).

1. **(Name):**

- Plaintiff/Petitioner Defendant/Respondent Other Party/Parent

submits objections to the court's statement of decision issued on (specify date): _____ and requests that the court amend its statement of decision as specified in item 2.

2. **Objection and request for amendments**

(Identify each section of the statement of decision to which you object and specify what you believe is the problem with each section. Refer to parts of the court record, exhibits, or testimony that support each objection, and specify the amendments you are asking the court to make.)

You may use the space below or you may use a separate page labeled "Attachment 2" and attach it to this form. (Form [MC-025](#), Attachment, may be used for this purpose.)

- below in Attachment 2.

3. Number of pages attached:

Date:

_____ Type or Print Name

 Signature

