Mandatory Court Rules
Superior Court of California
County of Tehama

TEHAMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

LOCAL RULES

Website: www.tehamacourt.ca.gov

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TEHAMA
LOCAL RULES OF COURT

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

RULE 1. CITATION OF RULES -- EFFECTIVE DATE

These rules are effective on the date above and shall be known and cited as the "Local Rules of Court" for the Tehama County Superior Court.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 2. REQUIRED ATTORNEY NOTIFICATION FOR UNOPPOSED AND DROPPED MATTERS

If an attorney will not oppose a motion filed by opposing counsel or if the moving counsel decides to drop the matter from calendar, that attorney shall promptly so notify opposing counsel and the Court Executive Officer. Violation of this rule may subject the attorney to sanctions.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 3. COURT REPORTERS

A. Criminal / Juvenile Dependency / Juvenile Delinquency: Court reporters are provided for juvenile dependency proceedings (Welfare and Institutions Code § 300 et seq.), juvenile delinquency proceedings (Welfare and Institutions Code § 602 et seq.), and felony proceedings. In criminal matters other than felonies, court reporters are not available at the expense of the Court. In lieu thereof, a recording

system is available for misdemeanor or infraction cases pursuant to Penal Code § 1045 upon direct request to the Clerk of the Court no later than five days in advance of the proceedings to be recorded. Court reporters may be used in criminal, non-felony cases, but they shall be obtained by, and at the expense of, the party requesting a reporter.

B. Non Criminal Matters: Court reporters are not provided at the expense of the Court. In accordance with California Rules of Court (currently Rule 2.956) each party to a civil trial as defined in said rule must serve and file a statement seven calendar days in advance of the trial date stating whether that party requests the presence of an official court reporter. Parties requesting an official court reporter in a civil trial will be charged court reporter fees in accordance with California Rules of Court. Parties requesting an official court reporter for the trial of a civil case will be required to deposit fees for the anticipated length of the trial or a full-day fee, whichever is less, at the time of filing said statement. Request for a reporter may be made on the record at the time of setting, and fees shall be due on the day of that request.

Counsel should check with the Court for a fee schedule of court reporter fees, which fees are in addition to any other trial court fees required by law or rule. As of the adoption of these rules, court reporter fees are: $30 for hearings of up to and including one hour, $187 per half day, and $374 per day. A half day fee is charged for any proceeding lasting more than one hour, and a full day fee is charged for any proceeding lasting more than four hours. The parties shall deposit their pro rata share of such fees as follows: (1) For hearings of less than one day, at the close of the proceeding; (2) For hearings of more than one day, at the beginning of the second and each succeeding day of the proceeding. Any fee waiver request must be submitted as early as possible and at least one day prior to the proceeding in question.

A failure to post fees as required may result in a discontinuance of the proceeding, an absence of a court reporter at the proceeding, a court order or citation to the attorney who failed to pay, or such other orders as necessary.
[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 4. PHOTOGRAPHING OR RECORDING COURT PROCEEDINGS

Photographing or recording any court proceeding is prohibited unless a written request made in advance of the proceeding is provided and approved pursuant to law.
[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 5. RESTRAINING ORDERS

1. General. Restraining orders shall be governed by the California Code and Rules, except as clarified below.

2. Ex-Parte Orders. A party seeking an ex-parte order must notify all parties no later than 10:00 a.m. the court day before the ex-parte appearance, absent a showing of exceptional circumstances that justify a shorter time for notice. The person giving such notice shall state with specificity the nature of the relief to be requested and the date, time, and place for the presentation of the application; and shall attempt to determine whether the opposing party will appear to oppose the application. The declaration regarding notice shall include the date, time, and manner of notice, and shall identify the name of the party informed and any response. If notice was not completed, the declaration shall further state that the applicant in good faith attempted to inform the opposing party but was unable to do so, specifying the efforts made to inform the opposing party or that, for reasons specified, the applicant should not be required to inform the opposing party. A judge makes determinations re notice, and no

clerk shall reject a filing because of inadequate notice. (Current California Rules of Court controlling notice include: 3.1203 – 3.1205)

3. Duty of Party Requesting Order. Any party seeking a restraining order (temporary, preliminary or permanent and including but not limited to Domestic Violence and Harassment restraining orders) shall in its first filed paper identify any unexpired restraining orders [criminal, family law, juvenile, and orders of any other court] in which any party requesting relief has: (1) previously obtained a restraining order against any other party and (2) previously been restrained by any other party. The Court may issue sanctions against any party not complying with this requirement.

4. Conflict. Current California Rule of Court, Rule 5.450, is referenced as to conflicts. Courts issuing restraining orders shall make reasonable efforts to determine whether there are any current, unexpired restraining orders against or in favor of any party seeking relief.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 6. CASE DISPOSITION TIME STANDARDS AND GOALS

Consistent with existing law, it is the policy of this Court to encourage prompt disposition of all matters. Attorneys shall promptly complete discovery and motions towards the end of completing cases within the following time limits. Attorneys must show good cause, in writing, to exempt a case from delay reduction standards.

A. Case Disposition Standards: The standard sought for all cases is as follows:

(1) Civil Cases: Within one year of filing unless the Court designates the

completion date as two or three years.

(2) Misdemeanor Cases: Within 90 days of the defendant's first court appearance.

(3) Preliminary Hearings: Within 10 calendar days or 60 court days from the defendant's first appearance.

(4) Felony Trials: Except for capital cases, within 60 days of the defendant's arraignment on the information.

B. Case Disposition Goals: Consistent with the California Rules of Court and the Case Disposition Standards cited above, the goal of this Court is to complete all civil cases as follows. Civil completion goals are measured from the date of filing. Criminal completion goals are measured from the date of arraignment.

(1) Unlimited civil cases: (a) 75 percent within 12 months; (b) 85 percent within 18 months; and (c) 100 percent within 24 months.

(2) Limited civil cases: (a) 90 percent within 12 months; (b) 98 percent within 18 months; and (c) 100 percent within 24 months.

(3) Small claims cases: (a) 90 percent within 75 days; and (b) 100 percent within 100 days.

(4) Felony trials: Except for capital cases, no more than one year after arraignment on the information.

(5) Preliminary Hearings, from arraignment on the complaint and excluding death penalty cases: (a) 90 percent within 30 days; (b) 98 percent within 45 days; and (c) 100 percent within 90 days;

(6) Misdemeanor cases: (a) 90 percent within 30 days; (b) 98 percent within 90 days; and (c) 100 percent within 120 days.

These case management goals are guidelines. In managing individual civil cases, the Court will consider each case on its merits. To enable the fair and efficient resolution of civil cases, each case should be set for trial as soon as appropriate for that individual case.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

SECTION 2. CIVIL CASES

RULE 7. SERVICE, RESPONSE, AND DEFAULT

Service and response shall be as follows, unless specifically required or allowed to the contrary by Code or Court Rule.

A. Documents Not Served by Summons: All matters commenced by service of a document other than a summons (i.e. Orders to Show Cause, motions, writs, etc.) and any responsive papers shall be served and filed pursuant to the California Codes and Court Rules. Any responsive papers to a motion or an Order to Show Cause shall be filed and served at least five days before the hearing.

B. Documents Served by Summons: All filings served by summons (i.e. civil suits, dissolution petitions, etc.) shall be served and proof of service shall be filed with the Court within 60 days of initial filing. Service shall include, and the proof of service shall note service of, all documents required by Code or Rule to be served with the summons. The filing of a cross-complaint shall be accompanied by proof of service on existing parties; new parties shall be served and proof of service filed within 30 days of filing the cross-complaint.

C. Response to Actions Initiated by Summons: Responses to actions initiated by summons shall be within 30 days of service, and the parties shall have the power to

stipulate to one 15 day extension.

D. Court Ability to Modify: The Court, on its own motion or on the application of a party, may extend or otherwise modify the times provided in this rule. An application for a court order extending the time to serve a pleading shall be filed before the time for service has elapsed. The application shall be accompanied by a declaration showing why service has not been completed, documenting the efforts that have been made to complete service, and specifying the date by which service is proposed to be completed.

E. Entry of Default: If no response has been filed, and the parties have not agreed on an extension of time to respond, a request to enter default should be submitted within 60 days after the date the response was due.

F. Judgment: A party who enters a default against any party shall finalize the judgment against the defaulted party within 45 days of the entry of default, absent specific extension by the Court.

G. Sanctions: The Court may issue an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed for any failure to follow the mandates of this rule.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 8. CONTINUANCES

Motions to continue, advance or reset shall be made on written notice to all parties who have appeared, and shall be noticed for hearing at the Civil Law and Motion calendar. Motions for continuance of a trial date shall be noticed promptly upon the necessity for continuance being ascertained. No continuance will be granted except upon an affirmative showing of good cause. This rule does not disallow a stipulation by the parties, but such stipulation does not result in a change of time limits unless a

judge accepts said stipulation.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 9. DUTIES IF CASE SETTLES

Whenever a case assigned a trial date settles, the attorneys or in pro per parties shall immediately notify the Court. Primary obligation to notify the Court shall be plaintiff's through his or her attorney or, if in pro per, in person. Notification may be by telephone to the clerk, but, in such case, shall be followed within five days by a confirming letter copied to all parties and the Court. Notification of settlement to the Court shall result in the vacating of any trial date and the removal of the action from the master calendar and civil active list. A future existing case management conference will be left on calendar, and if there is none the Court shall set one. The purpose of the post settlement case management conference is to assure that the case has been dismissed or judgment entered. Parties need not appear at such case management conference if the entire matter has been dismissed or if a judgment has been filed that finally settles all issues.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 10. ATTORNEY FEES IN CIVIL ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS

Whenever a prevailing party is entitled to the recovery of reasonable attorney fees, those fees will be fixed by reasonable compensation computed on an hourly basis. When fees are to be fixed by court fee schedule they shall be as follows, exclusive of costs and interest.

1. 25% of the first two thousand dollars ($2,000);
2. 20% of the next four thousand dollars ($4,000);
3. 15% of the next four thousand dollars ($4,000);

4. 10% of the next ten thousand dollars ($10,000);
5. 5% of the next thirty thousand dollars ($30,000); and
6. 2% of amounts in excess of the first fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

A request for fees in excess of this schedule shall be allowed only upon legal authority and a declaration provided by the prevailing supporting same. Where a prevailing party is entitled to the recovery of reasonable attorney fees in an otherwise appropriate clerk's judgment, the clerk shall include attorney fees computed pursuant to the fee schedule contained in this rule.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 11. CASE MANAGEMENT - SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

A. Case Management Conferences

All attorneys shall attend scheduled case management conferences in person or by telephone, and all parties shall have a completed case management statement filed and served at least five days before the case management conference. The initial case management date shall be provided by the Court to each party making an initial filing, and that party shall serve notice of the first case management conference on all served parties; parties filing a cross-complaint shall notify each cross-defendant of the next case management conference. Each case management conference shall address the disposition goals set out in these rules and shall include plans to achieve those goals. Each case management conference shall conclude with an order identifying a further case management conference until the matter has been declared at issue.

B. Settlement Conferences

(1) Setting and Attendance: Upon setting a jury trial or a court trial set for one day or more, a mandatory settlement conference shall be set approximately one

month before trial; the Court may set further settlement conferences. These conferences are mandatory and shall be attended by the parties, by the trial attorney, and by any person(s) who has (have) full authority to settle the case.

(2) Settlement Conference Statement: At least five days before the settlement conference, each party shall serve and file a settlement conference statement, which shall identify the positions of the various parties, shall include settlement positions and demands, shall itemize economic and noneconomic damages, and shall recite a brief summary of the facts and law upon which the filing party relies. Parties are hereby notified that settlement conferences often require significant investment of time, and parties shall be available for the entire day of a scheduled settlement conference unless otherwise directed by the court.

(3) Sanctions: The settlement conference judge may issue sanctions for failure to comply with rules applying to settlement conferences. Said sanctions may include striking out all or any part of any pleading of the offending party and/or dismissal of the action or striking an answer to allow default. If the motion for sanctions is made by a party, the Court may allow attorney fees and costs relating thereto. Terminating sanctions shall be used only after the Court has directed a party to remedy the failure to comply with the rules. Terminating sanctions shall not be used against a party as a result of the failure of counsel to comply with rules, and the Court in such case shall take appropriate action against the offending counsel.

C. Tentative Rulings: Should any judge adopt the practice of making tentative rulings, such rulings shall be accomplished per Rule of Court, currently Rule 3.1308.
[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 12. SANCTIONS

Sanctions in civil cases may be assessed per existing law and rule (including current Rule 2.30, CCP 177.5, CCP 575.2).

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 13. MEDIATION AND JUDICIAL ARBITRATION

The Court hereby elects to apply Title 11.6 of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure commencing at § 1775 to general civil actions filed in the court.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 14. FACSIMILE FILING

Fax filing is permitted and shall be accomplished pursuant to law and California Rules of Court (currently Rule 2.303).

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 15. SCHEDULING EX-PARTE MOTIONS AND APPLICATIONS

To secure a date and time for hearing ex-parte motions and other ex-parte applications for which personal appearances are required consistent with the California Rules of Court, the party making the application shall contact the judicial secretary for the bench officer in whose department the matter is to be heard or the Court Executive Officer.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 16. PAYMENT OR WAIVER OF FEES

Fee waivers shall be granted under the provisions of sections 68630 through 68641 of the Government Code or successor statutes. The Court grants to the Court Executive Officer or her designated clerk the power to approve fee waivers which qualify under the law. (G.C. § 68634) Should the law allow disapproving of same, then the C.E.O. is authorized to disapprove fee waivers.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 17. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT TO COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL AND EXPERTS

As to attorney fees, this rule does not apply to any counsel who works under a contract with the County or the Court unless that counsel seeks payment in addition to sum certain stated in the contract. This rule applies to any counsel in any court who seeks the appointment of an expert.

A. Court Appointed Counsel

Any counsel appointed by any judge in any court under any California Statute or Court Rule who claims reimbursement separate from and in addition to any contract consideration, shall include in his/her claim for payment all of the following: The date of appointment; the case number(s) of appointed cases; the name of the appointed client (except in juvenile cases); the date and inclusive times of work billed; the total hours and minutes (or fractions of an hour) billed for each entry, a clear and concise description of the work done. Further counsel should ask for a copy of and comply with the most current court requirements for attorney billing. Rounding up in billings shall be no more than to the next 2/10ths of an hour, and in all cases shall be reasonable in the discretion of the Court.

B. Court Appointed Experts

Experts are paid the reasonable value of services. No payment will be made unless counsel first obtains the consent of the Court to retain the expert. A request that asks for an expert merely to explore the file will not be granted. Any application for appointment of an expert shall be by declaration of counsel and shall include at least the following:

1. The file number(s) and party name(s) (except in Juvenile appointments);
2. The type of service being requested;
3. Why such services are reasonably necessary to the case of counsel's client, which reason must be as specific as it can be as to how the expert may assist and in criminal cases specifically what defense he might help establish.
4. The identity, billing address, hourly rate, any flat charges that may apply;
5. A statement of the expert's qualifications to provide the requested services;
6. An estimate of total cost of services should be included where possible;
7. If the expert is required by law to possess a license or other qualification, then the application must identify the license or qualification, the date it was obtained, the office or institution from which that license or qualification was obtained, and a statement that the expert is current and in good standing there under.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

SECTION 3. FAMILY LAW CASES

RULE 18. CIVIL RULES/FAMILY LAW APPLY UNLESS CONTRADICTED

A. General: The rules for civil cases shall apply unless contradicted by more specific family law statutes and rules. These rules do not attempt to repeat all family law and California Rules of Court which apply to family law; parties are referred thereto.

B. Appointment of Counsel for a Child: Appointments of counsel for a child shall be in the trial court's discretion as described in and subject to California Rule of Court, Rule 5.240 or its successor rule. Any complaint concerning such appointed counsel shall be made in writing to the Court Executive Office, shall clearly identify the name of complainant and the alleged facts underlying the complaint. The Court shall respond within 15 days of receipt of such complaint.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 19. EVALUATORS AND CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELORS (CCRC, formerly referred to as mediators)

A. Evaluators (custody/visitation)

If an evaluator is appointed, he or she shall be provided prior to commencing the evaluation process with a copy of the court order which specifies the appointment of the

evaluator under relevant statutes, including the following statutes in effect at the time of adoption of these rules: Evidence Code § 730, Family Code § 3110, or CCP § 2032. The evaluator shall comply with this rule and applicable law and shall submit form FL-326 (or its successor form) with regard to training and educational requirements. Any fees proper under law shall be assessed and apportioned by the judge managing the case.

B. Mandatory Mediation

Absent a finding of good cause to the contrary, all matters pertaining to custody and/or visitation shall be referred to the Child Custody Recommending Counselor (CCRC) at the earliest possible time. Court designated Child Custody Recommending Counselors are hereby authorized to render a recommendation to the court as to the custody or visitation of the child or children, involved. The Court may, without foundation, consider the report and recommendation of the CCRC. Parties referred to mediation shall attend the Parent Orientation class and shall promptly keep all appointments with the mediator and make a good faith effort to come to an agreement on custody and visitation. Notice of appointment may be accomplished by service on the CCRC and parties of the minute order appointing him/her. In court notice to an appearing party is sufficient without written notice. Any appointed CCRC shall adhere to Code and California Rules pertaining to mediators.

C. Investigation by the Mediator

The court "mediator" is a "court appointed investigator" as that term is used in Family Code § 3110. The mediator may, without further court order, conduct an investigation regarding the issues of child custody and visitation pursuant to Family Code § 3110 et seq. in any proceeding where the parties fail to agree on the issues of custody and visitation or where it may otherwise be warranted.

D. Mediator: Ex-Parte Communications

As more fully stated in the Rule 5.235 of the California Rules of Court, when ex-parte communications are permitted by the mediator, any such communications shall be in writing and shall be served on opposing party. This requirement does not apply to communications by parties made to the mediator during a mediation session or to ex-parte communications initiated by the mediator.

E. Removal / Withdrawal of the Mediator

The mediator may remove herself from a case should mediation ethics require. The assignment of a mediator being a court function, there shall be no challenge allowed to the mediator by a party unless same is specifically allowed by law. The Director of Family Court Services, the Court Executive Officer, the Presiding Judge, or the judge presiding over the proceedings may in his/her discretion permit another CCRC to conduct mediation, which may be a mediator from another court, a probation officer, or such other person whom the Director, C.E.O. or judge finds qualified to act as mediator.

F. Recommendations of the Child Custody Recommending Counselor (CCRC)

The mediator is authorized to render a recommendation to the Court re custody and visitation. The Court may, without foundation, consider the report and recommendation of the mediator.

G. Challenges to the Mediator

Statutes, case law, and the California Rules of Court (including Rule 5.450) control any challenge to a court appointed evaluator, except as they may be augmented by these rules. Complaints concerning an evaluator shall be submitted in writing to the Family Court Services Director who is designated as the complaint coordinator. Complaints shall be in writing and shall be served on opposing counsel and on self represented litigants. Such complaints shall be evaluated and appropriate action taken within 10

days of receipt. There shall be no ex-parte communications with the mediator except as specifically requested by the mediator. Parties should inquire of and use any complaint form maintained by the Director.

H. Testimony / Confidentiality of File

Should any party seek to examine the mediator at a hearing regarding a mediator recommendation, it shall be that party's responsibility to secure the mediator's attendance as a witness. Any information received by the mediator including, but not limited to, information included in the mediation report shall be confidential and may be disclosed by the mediator only as necessary to continue his/her investigation, to complete his/her report, and to testify in any court hearing.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

SECTION 4. CRIMINAL CASES

RULE 20. MOTIONS AT TRIAL

Motions that are out of the ordinary or unusual (e.g. complex motions or extensive motions in limine) shall be made in writing and scheduled to be heard before the judge assigned to the trial no less than five days before trial. All motions that may not be heard and disposed of within ½ hour on the morning of trial must be so scheduled. Should there be no department assigned to try the case, then such motions shall be made to the misdemeanor Law and Motion calendar for misdemeanors or to the felony Law and Motion calendar for felonies.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 21. CRIMINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Jury instructions shall comply with the California Rules of Court and, unless stipulated to the contrary by all parties and accepted by the trial judge, shall be CALCRIM instructions. The parties shall provide their requested instructions, with one separate copy for the Court and one separate copy for each opposing counsel, on the morning of the first day of trial unless the trial judge has directed to the contrary. No instruction shall identify the party making the request. Special instructions shall be accompanied by points and authorities separate from the proposed instruction. All blanks on form instructions shall be filled in so that the proposed instruction is complete.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 22. PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

It is the policy of this Court to expedite preliminary hearings. Motions to continue the preliminary examination are disfavored and shall be denied unless the moving party, pursuant to and in accordance with Penal Code §1050 and the particular statutes pertaining to continuances of preliminary examinations, presents affirmative proof that the ends of justice require a continuance. A stipulation by all parties to continue the preliminary examination does not constitute good cause, by itself. Substitution of counsel does not automatically constitute good cause for a continuance; counsel should not take cases on which they are not prepared to timely proceed.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

SECTION 5. PROBATE AND CONSERVATORSHIP

RULE 23. RELIANCE ON STATE LAW AND RULES

The Court does not elect to create local rules at this time. California statutes, case law, and the California Rules of Court should be consulted by parties.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

SECTION 6. JUVENILE COURT RULES

RULE 24. LOCAL RULES DO NOT SUPPLEMENT STATE LAW

Statutory law, case law, and the California Rules of Court extensively regulate the Dependency (Welfare and Institutions Code, § 300) and Delinquency (Welfare and Institutions Code, § 602) actions brought before the Court. Counsel shall refer to those sources for guidance. Nothing in this rule prevents the Juvenile Presiding Judge or any Juvenile Judge from establishing additional policies and procedures that do not violate state law and rules.

[effective date: January 1, 2013]

RULE 24.1. CASA

A. Adoption of CASA Program

1. The court hereby adopts the guidelines for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) as more particularly set forth

in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 100 through 109, inclusive, and Rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court.

2. The CASA Program shall report regularly to the presiding judge of the Juvenile court with evidence that it is operating under the guidelines established by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association and the California State Guideliness for child advocates.

B. RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO CASA

1. To accomplish the appointment of a CASA, the judge, commissioner or referee making the appointment shall sign an order granting the CASA the authority to review specific relevant documents and interview parties involved in the case, as well as other persons having significant information relating to the child, to the same extent as any other officer appointed to investigate proceedings on behalf of the court.
2. The CASA shall have the same legal right to records relating to the child her or she is appointed to represent as any case manager (social worker or probation officer) regarding records pertaining to the child held by an agency, school, organization, division or department of the State, physician, surgeon, nurse, other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health provider or law enforcement agency. The CASA shall present a copy of his or her appointment order together with his or her identification to provider to gain access to the requested information. No consent from the parent or guardian is necessary for the CASA to have

access to any records relating to the child.

C. RIGHT TO TIMELY NOTICE AND RIGHT TO APPEAR

1. Whenever any motion is made, or a supplemental or subsequent petition filed, concerning the child for whom the CASA has been appointed, the moving party shall provide the CASA with timely notice.
2. A CASA shall have the right to be present and be heard at all court hearings, and shall not be subject to exclusion by virtue of the fact that he or she may be called to testify at some point in the proceedings. A CASA is not a party to the dependency proceedings. However, the court, at its discretion, shall have the authority to grant the CASA *amicus curiae* status, which includes the right to appear with counsel.

D. CALENDAR PRIORITY

In light of the fact that CASAs are rendering a volunteer service to children and the court, matters on which they appear should be granted priority on the court's calendar whenever possible.

E. CASA REPORTS

CASA reports shall be filed with the court at least three (3) court days prior to the hearing. The CASA program shall provide a copy of the report to all counsel of record at least three (3) court days before the hearing.

[effective date: January 1, 2015]

SECTION 7. APPEALS

RULE 25 RECORD ON APPEAL – TRIAL COURT FILE INSTEAD OF CLERK'S TRANSCRIPT

In accordance with California Rules of Court, Rules 8.833, 8.863 and 8.914, the appellate division elects to use the original trial court file in lieu of a clerk's transcript on appeal in appeals of limited civil, misdemeanor and information cases.

In accordance with California Rules of Court, Rules 8.916, 8.917 and 8.860 et seq., the original of an official electronic recording of the trial court proceedings, or a copy made by the court, shall be transmitted as the record of these oral proceedings without being transcribed. This official electronic recording satisfies any requirement in these rules or in any statute for a repoter's tanscript of these proceedings. The trial court judge may order that a transcript be prepared as the record of the oral proceedings.

[effective date: January 1, 2015]

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