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News from the Office of District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ASKING ALL WITNESSES UNDER
SUBPOENA BETWEEN MARCH 18 AND APRIL 3, 2020 TO CONTACT
THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY**

Stockton – Today, District Attorney Tori Verber Salazar announced that in response to the San Joaquin Superior Court Notice dated March 17, 2020, that non-emergency court hearings will be suspended until April 3, 2020, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, that persons under subpoena to appear as a witness in court during this time frame, please immediately contact the phone number provided on said subpoena. The court has declared that “time not waived” (TNW) preliminary hearings and trials will be heard.

It has come to our attention that court officials are not allowing potential jurors or witnesses with subpoenas into the court house. There is no directive on the San Joaquin County Superior Court website as to whether jurors and witnesses should appear at the courthouse, however, they have asserted that time-not-waived (TNW) jury trials and preliminary hearings will continue to be heard, but *may* be continued at the judge’s discretion.

Our office will be prepared to prosecute those cases, but so as not to inconvenience victims or witnesses under subpoena, we ask those persons to please call the number on the subpoena one or two business days in advance to determine if you will actually need to come to court. If the court proceeds to trial or preliminary hearing, the District Attorney’s Office will make arrangements with you to stay on the first floor of this office until you are needed in court. If you are sick, showing any signs of fever or cough, or are otherwise in a high-risk group please advise the team member with whom you speak.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) What should I do if I have a subpoena dated between March 18 and April 3, 2020?

Call the number on the subpoena one or two days before the scheduled court date and you will be advised whether or when you need to appear.

2) What should I do if I am ill, have child care issues due to Coronavirus, or am in a high risk group?

Notify the person at the District Attorney's Office with whom you speak of any of these issues.

3) What should I do if I arrive at the courthouse and they will not let me enter?

Please come to the District Attorney's Office located at 222 E. Weber Avenue (directly next to the courthouse) with your subpoena and we will make accommodations for you to wait on the first floor until you need to go to court.

4) What should I do if I do not have transportation to court?

Notify the person at the District Attorney's Office with whom you speak and, if possible, we will provide transportation to you if it can be done so as to protect your health and safety.