



ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visiting at OC Jails temporarily suspended in response to COVID-19 concerns

SANTA ANA, Ca. (March 13, 2020): Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and as part of the department's ongoing COVID-19 prevention efforts, the Sheriff's Department will temporarily suspend inmate visitation at all Orange County Jail facilities, with the exception of attorney visitation.

The temporary suspension will be in effect from Saturday, March 14, through Monday, March 16. The Sheriff's Department on March 16 will reassess whether to extend the suspension.

Although Sheriff's Department jail facilities do not offer contact visits, visiting days draw large numbers of the public who sit in close proximity in the lobby of our facilities. Given how COVID-19 spreads, the Sheriff's Department will follow the recommendations of local, state and federal health agencies, which advise members of the public to avoid large gatherings.

The Sheriff's Department understands the value and importance of visiting hours for those in custody, as well as for their families and friends, however safety remains the department's highest priority. The department is committed to fulfilling its role in taking measures to protect the public, department staff and those in our custody.

At this time, there are no other impacts to Sheriff's Department operations, and department members will continue to implement practical health and safety protocols in the commission of their duties.

For the latest updates on COVID-19 in Orange County and additional health and safety information, visit ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus.

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