



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

State Hearings Division  
744 P Street, MS 21-50, Sacramento, CA 95814-6485



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

Date : March 13, 2020

**Re: CDSS State Hearings Division (SHD) Covid-19 Response**

Dear County Partners,

In the past several days, we have received inquiries from several counties asking whether the SHD will move to phone hearings in response to the ongoing Covid-19 infection. Several counties have also informed us that your management has asked that all public facing contacts be cancelled.

In conformity with the policy statements from the Governor's Office, the California Department of Public Health, the CDSS Departmental response, and to remain responsive and respectful of the health and safety of all involved in the state hearings process, the State Hearings Division (SHD) has made the determination that effective immediately, we are going to an all phone hearing process through April 17, 2020. We will reassess this policy in two weeks to see if an extension is merited.

Staff have been contacting all claimants scheduled for hearings next week, to inform them that the hearings will be held by phone. Our staff have also been in contact with your hearing representatives as well.

We appreciate your flexibility as we respond to this unprecedented situation. Our highest priority goal is to ensure the health and safety of all claimants, county staff, and SHD staff at this time. We understand that you also have your own county specific responses to address, and we will continue to be flexible and work with you as well.

We will keep you all informed as things progress. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

*Juliet O. Macaulay*

Deputy Director/ Chief Administrative Law Judge