

*Litigators Dedicated to Health and Safety Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*

CALIFORNIA COURT UPDATES

*Updated Last June 16, 2021*

Los Angeles Superior Court

 THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

**Courthouse Access and Remote Appearances:**

a. In the interest of safeguarding the well-being of court users and enforcing social distancing, persons seeking services from the Clerk’s Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers must have a prescheduled appointment. For telephone or video assistance, or to schedule an appointment, the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court’s website, [www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org).

b. Access to LASC proceedings is governed by General Order 2020-GEN-025-00

issued on November 23, 2020.

**Face Covering**

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today announced the Superior Court of Los Angeles

County will lift its mandatory face mask order effective Monday, April 4, 2022, while

strongly recommending the use of well-fitting medical masks or respirators inside all

courthouses to align with the most recent Los Angeles County Department of Public

Health (LADPH) Health Order.

“For two years, the Court has followed the guidance and recommendations of the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the LADPH, while balancing public

health and safe access to justice in the nation’s largest trial court,” Presiding Judge

Taylor said. “Since the winter COVID-19 surge peaked in LA County in mid-January,

LADPH indicates that ‘case and test positivity rates and hospitalizations have

consistently declined.’ These benchmarks have guided the Court’s measured approach

during the pandemic. While new case reports have declined, LADPH strongly

recommends the use of well-fitting medical masks or respirators for all persons, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public settings and the Court’s policy will align

with this guidance effective April 4.”

The Court has required face masks since it first implemented a mandatory face mask

policy on June 5, 2020. In accordance with its measured approach, the Court also has

delayed its face mask policy changes for at least two weeks after LA County shifts, which

has served the Court well.

“I want to thank the public, jurors, court employees, judicial officers and justice partners

for getting vaccinated, following public health guidance and helping the Court to

prioritize safe access to justice since March 2020,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “The

Court will remain in close contact with LADPH and follow the guidance of our local, state

and federal public health experts as we remain vigilant in monitoring emerging virus

threats.”

LADPH continues to strongly recommend, when around others in public settings, wearing

a mask with a good fit and filtration (medical masks or N95/KN95/KF94 respirators),

especially for individuals who are at elevated risk of severe illness from a COVID-19

infection and for those who live with someone at elevated risk, such as the elderly, those

with underlying comorbidities and immunocompromised individuals.

“I would like to emphasize that we continue to implore all visitors to wear masks while in

our courthouses,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “We should all take the LADPH

recommendations on mask-wearing seriously.”

Presiding Judge Taylor strongly encourages litigants and attorneys to take advantage of

the Court’s remote courtroom appearance technology and service options. Call centers

for Clerk’s Offices, Family Law, self-help and Traffic matters, and numerous online selfservice tools, have many benefits beyond convenience, including reducing childcare costs, gasoline consumption and pollution.

The Court’s remote appearance technology, LACourtConnect, is available for

appearances in Civil, Family Law, Small Claims, Probate, Unlawful Detainer and Traffic

matters. To register to appear remotely, visit <https://my.lacourt.org/laccwelcome>

~~Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today reminded the public that face masks and social distancing~~

~~remain in effect in all Los Angeles County courthouses until further notice. To avoid confusion~~

~~today, as the state and county public health departments change their COVID-19 protocols,~~

~~Presiding Judge Taylor asked the general public, including all who visit and work in County~~

~~courthouses, to continue to follow the Court’s face mask and social distancing requirements.~~

~~“While June 15 represents the state’s economic reopening with revised state and county public~~

~~health guidelines that match recent CDC changes, workplaces must continue to comply with~~

~~Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards,” Presiding Judge Taylor said.~~

~~“The Court is carefully monitoring rapid developments and will continue to provide updates on~~

~~any changes to workplace guidelines. Please be patient and continue to wear your masks and~~

~~remain six feet apart in all court buildings. If you forget your mask when coming to the~~

~~courthouse, one will be provided to you at the entrance.”~~

~~In accordance with Amended General Order 2021-009-02 amended this day, all persons are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings compliant with the California Department of Public Health Guidance Concerning the Use of Face Coverings issued on June 18, 2020, are urged to seek an accommodation under Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment.~~

~~The Order prohibits the use of face masks with valves in all Los Angeles County courthouses. It~~

~~also requires that face masks be worn beneath face shields except as required by a physician.~~

~~Children under the age of two are exempt from the Order.~~

~~Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them from~~

~~wearing a face mask, are exempt from wearing a face covering. Nevertheless, they must take~~

~~whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as appearing remotely or wearing a~~

~~face shield with a drape on the bottom edge. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption~~

~~from the face mask requirement as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with~~

~~Disabilities Act (ADA) or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA~~

~~liaison at each courthouse. A list of liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx.~~

~~To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a face mask~~

~~may be scheduled when fewer people are present in court.~~

~~1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face mask over both the nose and mouth while in public areas of the courthouse or courtroom.~~

~~All persons, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face mask over both the nose and mouth while in public areas of the courthouse, including courtrooms. Children under the age of two (2) are exempt from the Order. Court employees must wear face masks that meet the Cal/OSHA requirements.~~

~~2. Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a face mask will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.~~

~~3. Individuals with a physical or mental health impairment or disability who seek an exemption from the face mask requirement must contact the ADA liaison at the courthouse prior to their appearance to request a reasonable accommodation pursuant the Americans with Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court. A list of ADA liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx.~~

~~4. Individuals who remove their face masks after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.~~

~~5. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.~~

~~5. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.~~

 ~~6. No advance permission will be required for in-person courtroom seating for hearings on or after June 28, 2021.~~

 ~~7. Drop boxes will remain outside courthouses as a filing option.~~

 ~~8. While snack bars and cafeterias will reopen, over the next few weeks, eating or drinking is prohibited in courthouse hallways.~~

**~~ACCESS TO PUBLIC HEARINGS DURING THE PANDEMIC~~**

~~Effective June 28, the Court will no longer offer the Remote Audio Attendance Program (RAAP) to listen remotely to courtroom proceedings. The Court implemented this temporary program during the pandemic recognizing there may be abuses of the Court’s orders prohibiting recording, filming, and distribution of proceedings. Widespread breaches by the public in a recent court proceeding highlighted the need to return to in-person, open courtroom proceedings, which is a welcome development.~~

~~“For many months, we have required everyone in a courthouse to socially distance and remain six feet apart – at entrances, and in hallways, elevators, courtrooms, and offices,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “Beginning June 28, it will no longer be required to stay six feet apart from other people. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has made this day possible by following federal, state and L.A. County public health protocols and who led the efforts towards public vaccination. This is a great day for everyone who visits and works in our courthouses.”~~

~~Attorneys and members of the public, including the news media, will be able to listen remotely to nonconfidential court proceedings throughout the Superior Court of Los Angeles County using the Court’s new Remote Audio Appearance Program (RAAP).~~

~~“We are implementing this new tool as part of our ongoing effort to ensure public access during~~

~~the pandemic and to enforce social distancing requirements in Los Angeles County courthouses,”~~

~~Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor said.~~

~~RAAP enables users with a smart phone, tablet or computer with internet service to establish a~~

~~remote connection to courtrooms and listen to nonconfidential court proceedings. The Court is~~

~~pleased to offer RAAP as part of its Here For You | Safe For You initiative. The Court strongly~~

~~encourages the use of its new convenient remote audio option, which requires users to create a~~

~~Court ID and password and then register for remote listen-only audio access for each hearing.~~

~~Attorneys Please Note: You can use your existing Court ID and password you created for the~~

~~Attorney Portal to sign in to RAAP.~~

~~IMPORTANT: Under California Rules of Court 1.150, photography, recording and/or~~

~~broadcasting of any court proceeding, whether remotely or in-person, is prohibited without a written order from the judicial officer presiding over the matter. The Court will not authorize~~

~~any recording or broadcast of proceedings via RAAP.~~

~~To get started and for more information, go to this link:~~

~~http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/CourtroomSeating.aspx. RAAP will be available for use for hearings starting Monday, January 11, 2021.~~

~~RAAP will be the preferred option for public access to courtroom proceedings. However, when~~

~~members of the public do not have the required equipment to use RAAP, a limited number of~~

~~courtroom seats for in-person attendance will remain available for persons authorized to enter~~

~~courthouses under 2020-GEN-025-00 as well as members of the public who obtain prior judicial~~

~~approval through the existing email submission process.~~

~~Under 2020-GEN-025-00, access to Los Angeles County courthouses is restricted at all times to~~

~~judicial officers, court staff, co-lessees, Judicial Council staff, vendors, jurors, mediators,~~

~~authorized persons (which includes, but is not limited to, news media representatives and news~~

~~reporters), attorneys, litigants and witnesses with matters on calendars, and individuals with~~

~~confirmed appointments.~~

**~~WITNESSES~~**

~~Witnesses with matters on calendar are authorized to enter courthouses under 2020-Gen-025- 00. However, to reduce the number of people coming to court, parties are strongly encouraged to explore options for remote appearances by witnesses via Webex and LACourtConnect.~~

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| **~~LACOURTCONNECT:~~** | ~~Civil, Family Law, Probate, Small Claims, Traffic Arraignments and Unlawful Detainers.~~~~Fees In order to make the option of remote appearance widely available to all court users during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic period, cost recovery fees for LACourtConnect will be: • $15 for each audio appearance; • $23 for each video appearance; and • Free for individuals with fee waivers~~ |
| **~~WEBEX:~~** | ~~Appellate, Criminal, Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency.~~ |

**REMOTE AUDIO ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

The Court strongly encourages the use of its new convenient remote audio option, which requires users to create a Court ID and password and have a smart phone, laptop or computer with an internet connection to establish a remote connection to the courtroom.

PLEASE READ: Under [California Rules of Court 1.150](http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/uploads/14201712373333CARulesofCourt1.150.pdf), photography, recording and/or broadcasting of any court proceeding, whether remotely or in-person, without a written order from the judicial officer presiding over the matter. The Court will not authorize any recording or broadcast of proceedings via the Remote Audio Attendance Program.

**DIRECTIONS FOR USING REMOTE AUDIO ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

**BEFORE THE HEARING:**

1. Go to the Remote Audio Attendance website at <https://my.lacourt.org/remoteaudio/welcome>
2. Follow the "Step 1: Sign Up" process by clicking on the "Enter" button.
3. If you already have Court ID, click on the "Sign In" button and enter your user ID and password. If you do not have a Court ID, click on the "Create New Account" button. Instructions are available on the page if you need assistance to create your Court ID.
4. Once you have signed in or created your Court ID, you will be taken to the Remote Audio Attendance Sign Up form.
IMPORTANT NOTE: Fill out this form for every hearing you wish to attend.
5. Select the appropriate Case Type, enter your case number and click the "Continue" button.
6. Enter the required fields and read the Note and Certification information before clicking on the "Submit Request" button.
7. Watch for the confirmation email that provides the link to go to on the day of the hearing.

**DAY OF THE HEARING:**

1. Go to this link [( https://my.lacourt.org/remoteaudio/welcome )](https://my.lacourt.org/remoteaudio/welcome)
2. Click the Listen button.
3. Sign in with your Court ID and password.
4. The website will list the hearings that you requested for that day.
5. Click on the "Listen" button to begin listening. You will be muted and unable to speak during the proceeding.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A SMART PHONE, TABLET, OR COMPUTER WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION, PLEASE VISIT OUR PAGE FOR REQUESTING IN-PERSON SEATING HERE: [Courtroom Seating Request](http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/courtroomseatingrequest.aspx)

**~~IN-PERSON COURTROOM SEATING~~**

~~Every courtroom maintains at least one (1) available seat for media representatives and at least~~

~~one (1) available seat for members of the public, with prior approval, during nonconfidential~~

~~proceedings. These designated seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis when~~

~~members of the public do not have a smart phone, tablet or computer with an internet~~

~~connection to listen remotely to court proceedings using RAAP. Any other seats will be available~~

~~to the extent allowable by social distancing protocols and at the discretion of the presiding bench~~

~~officer.~~

~~More information about the request and judicial approval process for In-Person Courtroom~~

~~Seating is available here:~~ [~~http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/CourtroomSeating.aspx~~](http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/CourtroomSeating.aspx)~~.~~

~~RAAP’s launch expands the Court’s remote courtroom access options as part of its Here For You~~

~~Safe For You initiative, which provides numerous protective measures to operate courthouses~~

~~safely. Whether appearing or listening to proceedings by phone, from home, the office or coming~~

~~to the courthouse, the Court provides safe, efficient options to access justice. The Court’s~~

~~remote courtroom appearance technology options in all 600 courtrooms across the county~~

~~promote social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person. More~~

~~information is available on the Court’s Twitter page @LASuperiorCourt.~~

**~~Trial Continuance~~**

~~Effectively, Monday, June 28, 2021, the Civil Division announces the following changes, also effective June 28:~~

~~• All Civil jury trials will no longer be coordinated through Dept. 1, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles. Dept. 1 will continue to be a master calendar for assignment to trial for Personal Injury (PI) Hub cases, those PI-complicated cases not to be tried in the assigned I/C court, as well as non-Stanley Mosk Unlawful Detainer, Limited or Long Cause cases, as it was before the pandemic.~~

~~• Mandatory Status Conferences (MSC) or mediation are no longer required within 90 days prior to a Civil jury trial (except for certain PI cases, which will take advantage of the recently announced Resolve Law LA Virtual MSC Program). Already-set MSCs will remain on calendar unless otherwise ordered by the judicial officer presiding over the case.~~

~~The Court continues to strongly encourage litigants and counsel to appear remotely through LACourtConnect for pretrial hearings, including for status conferences, motions, or other proceedings, as well as for Small Claims hearings and bench trials.~~

~~Effective immediately, Department 1 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, will serve as the central location for county-wide coordination of all Civil jury trials, Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor announced today.~~

~~The gradual resumption of Civil trials takes into consideration these factors:~~

~~• Statutory priority is given to the trial of Criminal cases.~~

~~• There are uncertainties of juror availability.~~

~~• The Court’s goal to ensure that courthouses, as well as hallways within courthouses, do not become overcrowded.~~

~~• The availability of Civil courtrooms large enough to hold jury trials consistent with social distancing requirements.~~

~~Earlier this year, Presiding Judge Taylor created a Special Civil Jury Trial Committee chaired by Judge David J. Cowan and appointed several experienced and respected bench officers as committee members. Based on the committee’s recommendations, Presiding Judge Taylor announced the following factors each judge must address before a Civil case is ready for trial courtroom determination and before calling for jurors:~~

~~• A Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) or mediation must have been held within the last 90 days. If there has not been one within that period, Department 1 will arrange for an MSC with an available judge if requested. Alternatively, parties may elect to meet with a private mediator.~~

~~• Whether the parties agree to a jury of fewer than 12 persons, which would allow the trial to proceed in the assigned department.~~

~~• Whether the parties agree to a bench trial of some or all the issues, which may avoid a jury trial altogether.~~

~~• Whether any witnesses can testify remotely, which would help to reduce the number of people in the courtroom.~~

~~When a judge determines a case is ready for trial, that judge will submit a request to go forward with the new Civil Jury Trial form. The form will include information such as the number of people who will be in the courtroom when the court and counsel wish to begin trial, and whether the case is entitled to preference, nearing the five-year statute of limitations, or involves special circumstances otherwise warranting consideration for priority. The Court has established procedures for trial judges to submit the Civil Jury Trial form depending on where the case is assigned. Counsel may provide input to the assigned judge in completing the form.~~

**Orange County Superior Court**

The courthouses of Orange County Superior Court are open for in-person services. Some hearings will continue to be conducted remotely by video appearance. Please ensure you review the case-type information below before traveling to a courthouse.

Members of the public are no longer required to wear a mask/facial covering when entering Court facilities regardless of vaccination status, but the use of masks/face coverings is still strongly recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

The Court continues to require certain safety measures for COVID-19 exposure. Therefore, in compliance with state and local guidelines, orders, and ordinances, persons who test positive for COVID-19 or display symptoms (irrespective of vaccination status) that are consistent with COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter Court facilities for at least five days, from the start of symptoms or date of testing, if asymptomatic.

~~On June 15, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued Guidance~~

~~for the Use of Face Coverings which generally provide (1) masks are not required for fully~~

~~vaccinated individuals, except in specified settings; (2) masks are required for unvaccinated~~

~~individuals in indoor public settings and businesses; (3) specified individuals are exempt from~~

~~the mask requirements.~~

~~On June 17, 2021, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board~~

~~(Cal/OSHA) met and adopted a series of revisions to the Emergency Temporary Standards to~~

~~revise requirements in light of updated Centers for Disease Control and California Department~~

~~of Public Health face covering guidance and social distancing requirements. Also on June 17,~~

~~2021, Governor Newsom issued N-09-21 making the Cal/OSHA standards immediately~~

~~effective.~~

~~On June 17, 2021, the Orange County Health Officer issued an Order, which among~~

~~other things, requires all County residents and visitors to wear face coverings in accordance~~

~~with and as required by the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings. The Order states~~

~~masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses,~~

~~except in specified settings, but masks are required for unvaccinated individuals in indoor~~

~~public settings and businesses. The Order further provides that specified individuals are~~

~~exempt from the mask requirements.~~

~~Pursuant to my authority to control matters before the Court (Code Civ. Proc., § 128;~~

~~Gov. Code, § 68070); my authority as the Presiding Judge (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603);~~

~~the inherent powers of the Court (In re Reno (2012) 565 Cal.4th 428, 522); and in compliance~~

~~with state and local guidelines and orders, I therefore order as follows:~~

~~The Second Amended Administrative Order 20/16, dated July 15, 2020, is hereby~~

~~rescinded, effective June 20, 2021.~~

~~Effective June 21, 2021, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect public~~

~~health, all members of the public entering the court are subject to the following:~~

~~• All vaccinated members of the public entering the court, including law enforcement,~~

~~attorneys, parties, and vendors, will no longer be required to wear a face covering while~~

~~inside a courthouse. The act of entering the courthouse without a mask will be~~

~~considered self-attestation to the fact that they have been vaccinated.~~

~~• All unvaccinated members of the public entering the court, including law enforcement,~~

~~attorneys, parties, and vendors, must wear face coverings for the purpose of covering~~

~~their mouth and nose at all times when entering the public areas of any court building,~~

~~including courtrooms, or wherever the Court is conducting official business. Face coverings should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.~~

~~• Social distancing of at least six feet (6’) shall no longer be enforced in courthouses,~~

~~courtrooms, and public areas.~~

~~• Judicial officers who have been vaccinated will no longer be required to wear a face~~

~~covering while inside a courthouse.~~

~~• Judicial officers who have not been vaccinated must wear face coverings while on the~~

~~bench and when in the public areas of any court building, and at all times when~~

~~interacting with other individuals, including Court employees. Unvaccinated judicial~~

~~officers may remove the mask while alone in their chambers and when eating and~~

~~drinking with other individuals provided social distancing requirements are being met.~~

~~• Unvaccinated individuals who are not wearing a mask will be provided one upon entry~~

~~to the courthouse. Unvaccinated individuals unwilling to wear a face mask will be~~

~~denied entry to the building. Unvaccinated Individuals who remove their masks after~~

~~entering the building will be reminded of this requirement. If compliance is refused,~~

~~services may not be provided, and the person may be asked to leave the court building~~

~~immediately. Children under the age of three are exempt from this Order.~~

~~• For unvaccinated individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this Order as~~

~~a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or~~

~~California Rules of Court, rule 1.100, please contact the Court’s ADA site coordinator at~~

[~~http://www.occourts.org/general-info/~~](http://www.occourts.org/general-info/) ~~or at~~ ~~ADAInformation@occourts.org~~ ~~This Order will remain in effect until 30 days after the Governor declares that the State of~~

~~Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed.~~

~~Governor Newsom announced a new stay-at-home order that will be triggered when the Southern California region’s hospital ICU capacity drops below 15 percent. The Court continues to adhere to strict safety protocols. In addition, the Court is an essential service therefore we do not anticipate any modification to our current operational plans. Jurors are expected to respond to jury summons.~~

~~The courthouses of Orange County Superior Court remain open for limited in-person services. Members of the public should NOT visit a courthouse unless they have a scheduled in-person hearing or an appointment to enter the building for counter services.~~

~~Face coverings and adherence to social distancing rules are required to enter any of the Orange County Superior Court facilities.~~

~~Effective July 15, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect public health, all members of the public entering the court are subject to the following restrictions:~~

* ~~Social distancing of at least six feet (6') shall be enforced in all courthouses, courtrooms, and public areas to the extent possible.~~
* ~~All members of the public entering a court building or wherever the court is conducting official court business (i.e. outside triage tables, offsite jury assembly rooms, temporary courtrooms in non-court facilities, etc) including law enforcement, attorneys, parties, and vendors must wear face coverings for the purpose of covering their mouth and nose at all times in the public areas of any court building, including courtrooms, or wherever the Court is conducting official business. Face coverings may include a mask, scarf, or any other cloth material that covers both mouth and nose.~~
* ~~Judicial officers must also wear face coverings while on the bench and when in the public areas of any court building, and at all times when interacting with other individuals, including Court employees. Judicial officers may remove the mask while alone in their chambers and when eating and drinking with other individuals provided social distancing requirements are being met.~~
* ~~Individuals who are not wearing a mask will be denied entry to the building. Individuals who remove their masks after entering the building will be reminded of this requirement. If compliance is refused, services may not be provided, and the person may be asked to leave the court building immediately. Children under the age of three are exempt from this Order.~~
* ~~For individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this Order as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or California Rules of Court, rule 1.100, please contact the Court's ADA site coordinator at http://vvww.occourts.oroicieneral-info/ or at ADAInformationoccourts.orq.~~
* ~~This Order will remain in effect until 90 days after the Governor declares that the State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed.~~

Starting February 16, 2021, Civil Unlimited and Complex Civil will begin transition to the

use of Zoom instead of WebEx as a video conferencing technology for conducting civil

court trials remotely.

In addition to civil court trials, trial readiness conferences and other matters as designated by the department will be conducted through Zoom, unless otherwise specified. Law and Motion will continue to be heard via CourtCall per Administrative Order No. 20/06.

Parties are directed to familiarize themselves with the General Policies and Procedures

for the department where their case is scheduled. If a department has adopted a

standard link for Zoom access, the link information will be posted in the department’s

General Policies and Procedures document. If a Zoom link is not listed within the General Policies and Procedures document, the parties will be otherwise notified by the

courtroom.

Civil Unlimited - <https://ocscefm1.occourts.org/directory/civil/limitedunlimitedcivil/calendars/ex-parte.cfm>

Civil Complex - <https://www.occourts.org/directory/civil/complex-civil/calendarschedule/civil-panel-schedule.html>

For certain proceedings, the department may provide a unique meeting link for the

hearing. Questions about the remote appearance technology used for specific hearings

should be directed to the department.

Remote hearing instructions for Zoom are posted in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese on the court's website under the Policies, Procedures, and General Information section of the court's civil page at <https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/civil.html>

Implementation of Zoom will occur over several weeks, with several departments going

live on Zoom starting February 16, 2021. All Civil Unlimited and Complex Civil departments will be converted to Zoom by mid-March.

**~~Answering Ready for Trial~~**

~~Trial calls will be remotely conducted by the assigned department. Cases will answer ready for trial pursuant to the Process to Commence Civil Jury Trial published on August 20, 2020. Civil jury trials will take place in a limited number of designated courtrooms that allow for better social distancing. Cases may trail awaiting an available courtroom.~~

**~~Courthouse Access and Safety~~**

~~To maintain social distancing, admission to courthouses is limited. Attorneys and jurors with badges can bypass triage and go directly to weapons screening. Attorneys should provide the names of parties, witnesses, court reporters, and interpreters to the courtroom clerk the day prior to their attendance. The clerk will inform the triage tables outside the courthouse so they may be allowed inside.~~

~~➢ Everyone must wear face coverings at all times inside all courthouses. Masks will be provided to those without one. No one may enter wearing a face shield only, absent the approval of an ADA accommodation.~~

~~➢ Everyone must maintain 6 feet of social distance at all times inside all courthouses. All hallways, elevators, and courtrooms have been marked accordingly.~~

~~➢ Hand sanitizer is available at several locations in each courthouse.~~

~~➢ Plexiglass has been installed in courtrooms as needed.~~

~~➢ Courtrooms are cleaned every evening during jury trials and during lunch breaks when possible.~~

~~➢ Cleaning supplies and gloves are available to courtrooms upon request.~~

**~~Jury Selection~~**

~~Due to the continued 6 feet social distancing requirement, the court’s ability to convene large groups of prospective jurors has been significantly impacted. In an effort to explore opportunities to increase the court’s ability to conduct Civil jury trials, the court will be offering the option of remote jury selection on a case-by-case basis. This will allow the court and counsel to conduct voir dire and select a jury via video conferencing, while conducting the jury trial in-person. While other court’s in California have required remote jury selection, the Orange County Superior Court has opted not to mandate it. The court is interested in exploring this option should it need to become a requirement in the future due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.~~

~~Civil jury panels will include 40 prospective jurors per panel. Jury selection has been modified as follows:~~

 ~~➢ Jury selection might occur in a different courtroom than where the jury trial will be conducted.~~

~~➢ Where space allows, voir dire of all jurors will be done in one courtroom.~~

~~➢ When space limitations require, voir dire may be done in rounds (e.g. in 2 groups of 20 jurors each). In some courtrooms, voir dire of the first group will be broadcast live to the second group in a separate location. This will allow both groups to see and hear all voir dire questioning.~~

~~➢ Jury selection will otherwise proceed pursuant to statute, rule, and individual department procedure.~~

~~➢ During trial, jurors will be seated throughout the jury box and gallery to maintain social distancing.~~

**~~Civil Remote Selection Program Overview~~**

~~1.~~ **~~Overview~~**

~~Remote jury selection will be offered at trial call on a case-by-case basis. Counsel/self-represented parties will have an opportunity to agree to remote jury selection. A technology questionnaire will be used to assess the juror’s ability to connect and qualify them to participate. Once the prospective jury panel is qualified, jurors will be instructed to connect remotely via Zoom for voir dire. The number of participants who can join a Zoom session is not limited. Zoom also permits up to 49 attendees to be viewed on video at one time which can allow jury selection to occur in one session, versus the multiple-days required for in-person jury selection in smaller groups.~~

~~The Court and counsel/self-represented parties will be present in the courtroom during the voir dire process. The established process for voir dire will be followed. Once the jurors are selected, the sworn panel will be instructed to report in person to the courtroom to commence the jury trial soon thereafter. The jurors will be socially distanced throughout the courtroom during trial.~~

~~2.~~ **~~Trial Call~~**

~~At trial call, counsel/self-represented parties in cases that are ready to commence jury trial will have an opportunity to agree to remote jury selection. The court will confirm trial courtroom availability and start date/time through the Supervising Judge. The courtroom~~

~~clerk will request a prospective jury panel from the Jury Commissioner’s Office and provide the technology qualification questionnaire.~~

~~3.~~ **~~Juror Summons and Qualification~~**

~~The Jury Commissioner’s Office will summons jurors to report in-person at the courthouse through the established process. The Jury Commissioner’s Office will empanel a prospective jury panel, as requested by the courtroom. The technology qualification questionnaire will be provided to the empaneled jurors in the jury assembly room.~~

~~Upon completion, the Jury Commissioner’s Office will send all questionnaires to the courtroom for review by the court and counsel/self-represented parties. Prospective jurors will be instructed to the wait in the jury assembly room. Once the prospective jurors are qualified through the courtroom, the Jury Commissioner’s Office will be informed of the names of the qualified jurors and provided written instructions to be given to the qualified jurors.~~

~~The qualified jury panel will be excused and provided the written instructions for how and when to connect remotely for jury selection per the instructions provided by the courtroom. The Jury Commissioner’s Office will send the qualified alphabetical and random list of prospective juror names to the courtroom.~~

~~4.~~ **~~Remote Jury Selection~~**

~~On the day set to begin voir dire, the court and counsel/self-represented parties will be present in the courtroom while prospective jurors connect via Zoom. The video session will be displayed via the evidence presentation screen. Jurors can appear at the same time or can be instructed to connect by groups in staggered times. The established process for voir dire will be followed and the clerk will refer to the random list of perspective jurors throughout the jury selection process. Once the jury panel is selected, the sworn jurors will be instructed to report in-person soon thereafter for the commencement of the jury trial.~~

**~~Public Access and Livestream~~**

~~Courtrooms can safely accommodate only limited seating. Counsel should discuss courtroom capacity with the judicial officer. To provide public access to court proceedings, civil jury trials will be broadcast live (“live streamed”) via YouTube and accessible through the court website. The camera will capture witness testimony; it may include the judicial officer. Jurors will not be displayed at any time.~~

**~~Witness Testimony~~**

~~Judicial officers may allow witnesses to remove their face covering or may allow the use of a party-provided clear face shield during testimony.~~

~~➢ Witnesses will usually testify from the witness stand. Social distancing in some courtrooms may require the witness to sit in the first seat in the jury box.~~

~~➢ It is best for interpreters to utilize equipment (e.g. wireless two-way) for interpretation to support social distancing while providing simultaneous interpretation. Interpreters will not be allowed to stand closer than 6 feet to the parties.~~

**~~Exhibit Presentation~~**

~~Trial notebooks and exhibit notebooks still must be delivered to the department pursuant to Local Rule 317. Evidence presentation equipment will be used to display exhibits to witnesses and the jury. When witnesses must handle original exhibits or demonstratives, they will be given disposable gloves if requested.~~

**MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

The Court is steadfastly committed to supporting public health and the well-being of our community. At the same time, we are committed to providing litigants access to justice and adhering to all parties’ constitutional rights.

No appointments are required for in-person services at the Civil, Family Law, Probate, or Small Claims clerks' windows. The Court Records Division will remain open for in-person services by appointment only from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and again from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Research PCs will remain unavailable until further notice. If preferred, documents and court records requests may continue to be submitted via the drop box outside of Room 113 or by mail and will be processed in the order received. No appointment is required for the Criminal/Traffic Clerk's office, located in Room C-10. To schedule an appointment, please go to <https://marin-county-superior-court.square.site/>, or if you don’t have access to the internet, please call 415-444-7040 to receive assistance in scheduling an appointment.

ZOOM CIVIL / FAMILY / JUVENILE / PROBATE COURT CALENDAR APPEARANCE INFORMATION: <https://www.marincourt.org/PDF/Civil%20Zoom%20Links.pdf>

CRIMINAL VIRTUAL COURTROOMS - DAILY LINE UP:

<https://www.marincourt.org/PDF/CRIMINAL_VIRTUAL_COURTROOMS_DAILY_LINE_UP.pdf>

ZOOM CRIMINAL CALENDAR APPEARANCE INFORMATION:

<https://www.marincourt.org/PDF/Criminal%20Zoom%20Links.pdf>

ZOOM TRAFFIC CALENDAR APPEARANCE INFORMATION:

<https://www.marincourt.org/PDF/Traffic%20Zoom%20Links.pdf>

The Jury Commissioner may excuse a juror based on limited hardships described in Cal. Rule of Court 2.1008. To request an undue hardship electronically, please fill out the following online form: <https://forms.gle/wWiDsCcDpkwCSsQ8A>

~~EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9TH – DUE TO THE RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS ISSUED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM AND MARIN COUNTY’S PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES, THE CLERK’S OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON VISITS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN VIRTUAL THROUGH THE USE OF REMOTE VIDEO TECHNOLOGIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.~~

**~~COVID-19 RELATED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR JURORS~~**

~~The Marin County Superior Court is an “Essential Governmental Function” as defined in the Marin Public Health Order for April 29, 2020. The Court has taken the following proactive measures to address the safety of court personnel, attorneys, parties, witnesses and jurors:~~

~~• In compliance with CDC and Marin Health and Human Services guidance, face coverings must be worn at all times in courtrooms, court floor public spaces and in jury services;~~

~~• All high-touch surfaces, including door handles, elevator buttons and seat armrests are regularly disinfected;~~

~~• Hand sanitizer is available for use in each courtroom and will be available in jury services; • Social distancing of at least 6 (six) feet is enforced;~~

~~• The number of jurors summoned each day has been significantly reduced, and the time for juror check-in has been staggered;~~

~~• Signage has been installed reminding all personnel and jurors to maintain social distancing;~~

~~• Seating arrangements have been modified and marked in order to ensure socially distant seating at all times, including in jury services and in the courtroom;~~

~~• Courtrooms have been modified to ensure that everyone in the courtroom maintains social distancing;~~

~~• Courtrooms will be used for jury deliberation to ensure socially distant seating at all times; • Multiple jury deliberation rooms with a limited number of seating will be used for juror breaks and lunches to ensure that jurors have the appropriate space for social distancing;~~

~~• Courtrooms will be further modified with protective shields and barriers in certain areas;~~

~~• The court has leveraged videoconference technology to minimize the number of jurors required to be in the courtroom or travelling between floors at any one time;~~

~~• An infrared temperature camera is in use in Jury Services and on the court floor to monitor individual temperatures of prospective jurors, with the understanding that anyone identified with an elevated temperature of over 100.4 will be asked to leave the building;~~

~~• Signage is posted reminding all personnel and visitors to avoid entering jury services or the court floor if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, sneeze and cough into the elbow, not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.~~

~~Prospective jurors are advised not to report to jury duty if they have any symptoms of COVID19, including but not limited to cough, shortness of breath or fever.~~

~~Please be advised that the County of Marin determines the procedures for entering the courthouse and proceeding to the Jury Services in Room 244. If you have any questions, please contact jury services at (415)444-7120 or send us an email at jury@marincourt.org.~~

~~Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code section 68115, issued in response to the renewed request for an emergency order made by the Superior Court of Marin County ("Court"), the March 4, 2021, Order ("Order") of Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chair of the Judicial Council of California, and on the Court's inherent authority to control its own calendars and the Presiding Judge's duty to take into account the needs and safety of the public and the Court as they relate to the efficient and effective management of the Court's calendar (California Rules of Court, rule 10.603(c)), this Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:~~

~~1. This Administrative Order 21-02 supplements Administrative Orders 21-01, 20-19, 20-17, 20¬16, 20-15, 20-14, 20-11, 20-10, 20-09, 20-08, 20-07, 20-06, 20-05, and 20-04. Except as specifically modified herein, Administrative Orders 21-01, 20-19, 20-17, 20-16, 20-15, 20-14, 20-11, 20-10, 20-09, 20-08, 20-07, 20-06, 20-05, and 20-04 remain in full force and effect;~~

~~2. Any judge of the Court is hereby authorized to make use of available technology, when possible, to conduct judicial proceedings and court operations remotely, in order to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, and witnesses. This includes the use of video, audio, and telephonic means for remote appearances, reporting, and interpreting in judicial proceedings, and the electronic exchange and authentication of documentary evidence. Any rule in the California Rules of Court to the extent such rule would prevent a court from using technology to conduct judicial proceedings and court operations remotely is suspended (March 30, 2020 Statewide Emergency Order by Chief Justice, paragraph C);~~

~~3. Consistent with the Governor of California's March 27, 2020 Executive Order N-38-20, related statutes that impose limitations on the subject of these emergency orders are suspended.~~

~~4. The Self-Help Office will be physically closed until further notice, but help is accessible by email and phone;~~

~~5. Court sessions may be held anywhere in the county, including in correctional and juvenile detention facilities, from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code §68115(a)(1));~~

~~6. For purposes of computing time under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 313, 315, 334, 631, 632, 637, and 657, March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive, are deemed holidays (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(5));~~

~~7. Any judge of the Court may extend the time period provided in section 1382 of the Penal Code for the holding of a criminal trial by not more than 30 days, applicable only to cases in which the initial or previously extended statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(10); Executive Order N-38¬20 (03-27-20));~~

~~8. Any judge of the Court may extend the time period provided in section 313 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be released from custody to not more than 7 days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(11));~~

~~9. Any judge of the Court may extend the time period provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than 7 days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(11));~~

~~10. Any judge of the Court may extend the time periods provided in sections 632 and 637 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending wardship proceedings and charged with a felony must be given a detention hearing or rehearing to not more than 7 days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(11));~~

~~11. Any judge of the Court may extend the time period provided in section 334 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a hearing on a juvenile dependency petition must be held by not more than 15 days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(12));~~

~~12. Any judge of the Court may extend the time period provided in section 657 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a hearing on a wardship petition for a minor charged with felony offense must be held by not more than 15 days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline otherwise would expire from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Gov. Code, §68115(a)(12));~~

~~13. The Court has instituted protocols to comply with the most recent Public Health Order issued by the County of Marin Public Health Officer on May 15, 2020 and thereafter modified and/or supplemented by said Health Officer, including the most recent order on January 25, 2021.~~

~~14. All proceedings, unless otherwise noted, will be conducted through the use of remote technology. In person appearances, unless otherwise noted, are prohibited. Check the Court's website for details and instructions about how to appear remotely;~~

~~15. The limitations of Court operations, including the requirement that all proceedings will be through the use of remote technology, are to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, counsel, litigants and witnesses in connection with the Covid-19 threat while at the same time protecting individual and procedural constitutional and civil rights protections; and~~

~~16. All vCourt fees are waived for all courtrooms from March 6, 2021, to April 2, 2021, inclusive (Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 3.670(j)(2)).~~

**SUPERIOR COURT OF RIVERSIDE**

Those who are feeling ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including but not limited to fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle body ache, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 are prohibited from entering any court facility or courthouse.

All persons entering court facilities - irrespective of vaccination status - are no longer required to wear a face covering but are "strongly recommended" to do so based on the most recent guidance from the California Department of Public Health. Masks are available upon request at security screening, while supplies last.

The Riverside Superior Court is committed to protecting the health and safety of our community while performing our constitutional duties following guidelines provided by the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal/OSHA). Customers may submit documents for filing either online via the eSubmit Document Submission Portal, by electronic filing for civil cases, by U.S. Mail, or by placement in a drop box at one of our court facilities (See charts below for details).

**Appearing Remotely at Hearings**

Appearing remotely at hearings is an efficient alternative creating time saving option for litigants and attorneys. It also enhances pubilc access to court proceedings through technology to the courts. The Riverside Superior Court uses Zoom as its remote appearance platform. Zoom can be utilized through a computer, tablet, telephone, cellphone, or other electronic or communications device.

Unless a local rule is adopted, CCP 367.75 and California Rules of Court, rule 3.672 now govern the procedures in remote proceedings. Please visit the Remote Appearances page for more information.

**Telephone Services**

A very limited number of court staff are available to answer telephones and monitor email accounts. You can contact the Riverside Superior Court at 951-777-3147 (phone) to speak to a clerk. Please anticipate lengthy wait times for telephone service, and please understand that email responses will be delayed. Phone hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., except court holidays.

Web chat services are also available.

**Electronic Document Submission**

Customers may file documents online via the eSubmit Document Submission Portal. The eSubmit program allows court customers to electronically deliver documents to the court securely via the internet.

Alternatively, documents can also be mailed to the court for processing. See the court locations & parking page for courthouse addresses.

As of July 1, 2021, electronic filing (eFiling) is also now available for civil.

 ~~To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to protect the health and safety of the public, court staff, and judicial officers, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §128, Government Code §68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, the inherent powers of the Court (In re Reno (2012) 55 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with federal, state, and local guidelines, the Court hereby vacates General Order No. 2020-21, and finds and orders as follows:~~

~~1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a facial covering at all times within public areas and shared work spaces. The facial covering must have at least two layers of material and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin, hooking around the ears or secured behind the head. Single layer neck gaiters, face coverings with an exhalation valve, and face shields (without the two-layered face covering underneath) are not permitted. Children under the age of two (2) are exempt from this order.~~

~~2. Any person with a disability who refuses or is unable to wear the required facial covering may request an exemption from this order as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Rule 1.100 of the Cal. Rules of Court. To request an accommodation please contact the Court's ADA site coordinator at~~ [~~www.riverside.courts.ca.goviuenerailnIWAIJA/AuA.pnp~~](http://www.riverside.courts.ca)

~~3. Non-exempt persons who decline or refuse to wear a facial covering will be denied entry to the courthouse or courtroom.~~

~~4. Individuals who remove their facial covering after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, have their legal matter rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse.~~

~~5. All persons entering a courthouse must continue to maintain physical distance from all persons of at least six (6) feet at all times.~~

~~6. While in the courthouse, all persons must practice good hand washing hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.~~

**~~Court Appearances (Hearings)~~**

~~The court is beginning to resume hearings in certain case types. When your case is set for a hearing, the court will send you either a Notice of Hearing or Notice of Telephonic Hearing. Review this notice carefully, as it will indicate whether the hearing will be conducted live, in-person or telephonically (by phone).~~

~~Note: if your notice instructs you to attend a hearing in-person, you must appear at the courthouse; if your notice instructs to appear telephonically, you must attend by phone. If you are not sure, please contact the court or your attorney, if you have one, for assistance. You may also check the status of your case online.~~

**~~Notice of Hearing (In-Person Appearances)~~**

~~You are required to attend the hearing in-person. The notice you received contains information about the hearing, including the courthouse location, department (courtroom), and date and time.~~

**~~Notice of Telephonic Hearing (Telephonic Appearances)~~**

~~You are required to appear by telephone. The notice you received contains information you will need to attend the hearing by telephone, including the courthouse location, department (courtroom), and date and time.~~

~~Please click here for important information and instructions for Telephonic Courtroom Appearances via WebEx.~~

**~~Telephone Services~~**

~~A very limited number of court staff are available to answer telephones and monitor email accounts. You can contact the Riverside Superior Court at:~~

 ~~951-777-3147 (phone) to speak to a clerk. Please anticipate lengthy wait times for telephone service, and please understand that email responses will be delayed. Phone hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., except court holidays. The traffic call center has expanded public service hours and is available 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.~~

**~~Electronic Document Submission~~**

~~Customers may file documents online via the eSubmit Document Submission Portal. The eSubmit program allows court customers to electronically deliver documents to the court securely via the internet. Please note that the eSubmit fee of $1.85 is being suspended through March 31st, 2021. Alternatively, documents can also be mailed to the court for processing. See the court locations & parking page for courthouse addresses.~~

~~Courthouse Closures and Limited Public Service Hours. Please click the link for information about court locations, services and hours.~~ [~~https://riverside.courts.ca.gov/GeneralInfo/LocationsParking/locations-parking.php~~](https://riverside.courts.ca.gov/GeneralInfo/LocationsParking/locations-parking.php)

~~On July 1, 2021, the Riverside County Superior Court will provide electronic filing (eFiling) of all documents in unlimited civil, including limited, complex civil, unlawful detainers, and small claims cases.~~

~~At this time eFiling is optional. It is anticipated that eFiling will be mandatory on September 1, 2021. At that time, litigants represented by attorney must eFile unless they have obtained a court order for exemption.~~

**~~Jury Trials Have Resumed:~~**

~~Effective March 1, 2021: The Riverside Superior Court has resumed jury trials. If you have been summoned for jury service, please check your status before reporting.~~

~~The Riverside Superior Court has published a protocol for remote civil jury trials. With the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements, the Court is not able to welcome counsel, parties, witnesses, or jurors into all civil trial courtrooms for the purpose of in-person civil trials. Therefore, aligned with California Rules of Court, Emergency Rule 3, the Riverside Superior Court has developed and published a protocol for remote civil jury trials.~~

~~The protocol for remote civil jury trials can be found on the court’s website at the following locations:~~

~~On the Civil Divisions page:~~ [~~https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/Divisions/Civil/civil.php~~](https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/Divisions/Civil/civil.php)

~~On the Attorneys & Litigants page, under ‘Remote Hearing and Trial Information’. This page also includes presentation videos.~~

<https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/GeneralInfo/AttyLitigants/atty-litigants>

**SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT**

The San Diego Superior Court is in compliance with relevant federal, state and local guidance related to COVID-19 safety precautions. Here’s what to expect when visiting a local courthouse:

• In accordance with state and local public health guidance, facial coverings are optional, but recommended, for all individuals. Face coverings may be required, regardless of vaccination status, in some areas within the courthouses.

• Those who are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to stay home and seek assistance online, by telephone or via mail.

• As recommended, higher-rated MERV-13 (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) filters have been installed at all facilities to reduce airborne particles and fresh air circulation has been increased throughout the court facilities where possible.

• The Court continues to implement increased cleaning of all high-touch areas in the courthouses, including door handles and elevator buttons.

• Hand sanitizer remains widely available in public spaces within the courthouses.

**Jury Service**

Jury service is gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels. Jurors called to serve in the Central Division in downtown San Diego are to report in-person with plans to accommodate 4-5 trials per day. Jurors called to serve at the North, East or South County courthouses remain on telephone standby, calling in for five days to learn if they will need to report in-person the next business day.

**Court Appearances**

Depending on the case type, virtual hearings may still be available for future dates. Out-of-custody criminal defendants and traffic or minor offense defendants may have the option to attend their hearings in person or remotely. Small claims cases will also be held in-person or remotely. Select other Civil, Family, and Probate hearings may be available in-person, virtually or in a hybrid format. Please refer to each case type for specific details.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ~~The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in proclamations of states of emergency by federal, state, and local officials. The associated health and safety concerns, along with public health orders, caused substantial operational changes for the San Diego Superior Court.~~~~On March 17, 2020, the San Diego Superior Court closed for all non-emergency services to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The emergency service limitation was in place through May 22, 2020, though many remote services were added throughout the closure time period. The San Diego Superior Court resumed most business operations on May 26, 2020, and, over the next year, increased public access while complying with all local, state and federal public health guidance.~~~~On June 15, 2021, the State of California will fully reopen the economy and businesses may return to usual operations. This guide contains general information on courthouse operations and case-type specific information to assist those with active court cases.~~~~The San Diego Superior Court recognizes that the pandemic is not over and will continue to closely monitor federal, state, and local public health directives related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, and will continue to adjust procedures as needed. The available services detailed in this guide largely depend on policy-setting and guidance from the Judicial Council of California, and federal, state, and local officials. Information regarding public access, court facilities, and court services will be updated as needed.~~~~The San Diego Superior Court is in compliance with relevant federal, state and local guidance related to COVID-19 safety precautions. In addition, the San Diego County Public Health Officer has provided the Superior Court guidance related to safety protocols. In response, the Superior Court has instituted a range of measures to comply with the current health directives issued by federal, state, and local officials. These measures include:~~ ~~• Facial coverings will be optional for members of the public who are fully vaccinated and those who are not yet vaccinated are required to wear facial coverings.~~~~• Temperature and symptom screening at the doors to the courthouses is discontinued, however, those who are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to stay home and seek assistance online, by telephone or via mail.~~~~• In accordance with Cal/OSHA guidelines, facial covering and social distancing requirements may be different for employees than for the general public.~~~~• As recommended, higher-rated MERV-13 (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) filters have been installed at all facilities to reduce airborne particles and fresh air circulation has been increased throughout the court facilities where possible.~~~~• The Court continues to implement increased cleaning of all high-touch areas in the courthouses, including door handles and elevator buttons.~~~~• Hand sanitizer remains widely available in public spaces within the courthouses.~~ ~~• Everyone entering the courthouses will have their temperature taken and be screened for symptoms, conducted by the Sheriff’s Department in accordance with San Diego County public health orders.~~ ~~• Strict social distancing is enforced between employee work stations.~~ ~~• Floor stickers and signage provide visible markers of 6-foot distances for customer lines in business offices and lobbies. Plexiglas screens have been installed in business offices and other public areas.~~ ~~• Each employee must wear a face covering in accordance with state and local health orders and whenever they are within six feet of another person who is not a member of their family or household. Court visitors are also required to wear face coverings at all times when in court facilities.~~ ~~• The public is required to wait outside the courthouses in a socially distanced queue. Court staff members will determine the needs of those in line. Individuals who cannot be assisted via leaving paperwork in the Court’s drop boxes or information provided outside the courthouse, and who have essential business to conduct, are permitted to enter with masks and social distancing.~~ ~~• Video-remote technology is in use in most courtrooms, with parties participating remotely.~~ ~~• As many processes as possible have converted to online, telephone, or video services to the public.~~ ~~• The number of persons in elevators at any one time is limited.~~ ~~• The Court has implemented increased cleaning of all high-touch areas in the courthouses, including door handles and elevator buttons.~~ ~~• Hand sanitizer is widely available in public spaces within the courthouses.~~ ~~• Children’s Waiting Rooms located within court facilities remain closed until further notice.~~ |

**~~Jury Trials Resumed in February 2021~~**

~~Jury service is gradually being brought back up to pre-pandemic levels. Beginning in mid-July, jurors called to serve in the Central Division in downtown San Diego will resume daily in-person reporting with plans to accommodate 4-5 trials per day. Jurors called to serve at the North, East or South County courthouses will continue to be on telephone standby, calling in for five days to learn if they will need to report in-person the next business day.~~

~~The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, several statewide and local emergency orders suspended jury trials in San Diego County throughout most of 2020. The San Diego Superior Court briefly was able to hold a few jury trials in the fall, but jury trials were again suspended in December and January. The Court resumed jury trials in February 2021. Several additional precautions have been built into welcoming prospective jurors. For example, significantly fewer jurors are being summoned and the Court will use telephone standby and a new online portal to assist in not calling in more people than necessary.~~

**~~Court Appearances~~**

~~Depending on the case type, virtual hearings may still be available for future dates. Out-of-custody criminal defendants and traffic or minor offense defendants may have the option to attend their hearings in person or remotely. Small claims cases will also be held in-person or remotely. Select other Civil, Family, and Probate hearings may be available in-person, virtually or in a hybrid format. Please refer to each case type for specific details.~~

~~Most hearings are currently conducted remotely via video or telephone conference. This is to protect the health and safety of the public, including court users, both in-custody and out-of-custody defendants, witnesses, court personnel, judicial officers, and litigants. Notices are mailed to participants and indicate how hearings will be conducted. In-person court appearances are allowed or required in certain circumstances.~~

**~~Public Access~~**

~~E-Filing is available and mandatory for all limited and unlimited cases where parties are represented by attorneys. Find more details at sdcourt.ca.gov/Civil~~

**~~In-person services currently available at the Hall of Justice:~~**

~~The following filings are accepted at the counter:~~

~~• Temporary Restraining Orders (Civil Harassment, Elder Abuse, Workplace Violence, Emergency Protective Order, etc.) and related filings~~

~~• Claims of Right to Possession or Third Party Claims of Right to Possession~~

~~• Ex parte papers for Department 60 (Central Division only)~~

~~• Abatement Warrants~~

~~• Writ of Election~~

~~• Petition for Change of Name~~

~~• Unlawful Detainer Answers filed by pro per litigants (self-represented) only~~

~~• All other documents to be time-stamped and dropped in a Drop Box~~

~~Viewing of case files, including copies and certificationsAttorney Service messenger pick up and drop off in lockers~~

**~~In-person services currently available at the North County Courthouse:~~**

~~The following filings are accepted at the counter:~~

~~• Temporary Restraining Orders (Civil Harassment, Elder Abuse, Workplace Violence,~~

~~Emergency Protective Order, etc.) and related filings~~

~~• Abatement Warrants~~

~~• Petition for Name Change~~

~~• All other documents to be time-stamped and dropped in a Drop Box Viewing of case files, including copies and certifications Attorney Service messengers pick up and drop off in lockers~~

~~Persons with Court business are able to access the following locations for certain in-person services:~~

~~• Central Courthouse: 1st through 4th Floors (Business Offices) and 14th Floor (Central Records)~~

~~• Hall of Justice: 1st and 2nd Floors (Business Offices)~~

~~• Kearny Mesa Traffic Court • East County Regional Center: Ground and 1st Floors (Business Offices)~~

~~• North County Regional Center: South Building Lobby, North Building and Annex (Business Offices)~~

~~• South County Regional Center: 1st through 3rd Floors (Business Offices)~~

~~• Juvenile Court: 1st and 2nd Floors (Business Offices)~~

~~Effective April 15, the San Diego Superior Court will require that filings submitted by attorneys for represented parties in all Limited and Unlimited Civil or Probate matters be filed electronically. This new mandatory e-filing requirement comes after being introduced as an option in these case types in 2013 and is the latest phase in the Court’s Electronic Filing and Imaging Pilot Program. In the most recent previous phase, the list of court-approved e-filing service providers was expanded in October 2020. Self-represented litigants are not required to electronically file documents, but are encouraged to do so.~~

~~Benefits of e-filing documents include not having to come in person to the courthouse, particularly during the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen a drastic shift to remote services for court users. With e-filing, litigants can securely submit filings via personal computers and ensure all documents related to the filing arrive at the court together. Documents submitted via e-filing can be honored for the same court day if received before 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) on court days.~~

~~“We’ve seen that e-filing is the wave of the future for accepting court documents. It’s faster and more convenient for litigants and it decreases the processing time required of court staff,” said Mike Roddy, San Diego Superior Court CEO. “We’ve become a leaner organization over the years and as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding e-filing makes sense to both minimize the need to come to court in person and also maximize efficiencies.”~~

~~E-filing is governed by General Order No. 010121-22 (A) and the Court’s Electronic Filing Requirements, both of which are available on the Court’s website at sdcourt.ca.gov.~~

**~~Process for Scheduling an Ex Parte~~**

~~Hearing For cases assigned to a Civil Independent Calendar (IC) department, you must call the calendar clerk for the department in which your case is assigned. Please refer to the Court’s website for department calendar clerk phone numbers. Independent Calendar departments include:~~

~~• Hall of Justice: Departments 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75~~

~~• North County Regional Center: Departments N-27, N-28, N-29, and N-31~~

~~For Civil Independent Calendar departments, ex parte hearings will generally be held remotely/telephonically using CourtCall or MS Teams. When scheduling an ex parte, please inquire with the Independent Calendar Clerk on how to appear for your hearing. Once you receive confirmation from the Court that your ex parte date has been scheduled, you may contact CourtCall to make arrangements or visit the Civil Independent Calendar Virtual Hearings page (~~[~~http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/portal/page?\_pageid=55,2070120&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL~~](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/portal/page?_pageid=55,2070120&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)~~) on the Court’s website for more information on how to appear via MS Teams.~~

~~For Non-Independent Calendar departments, you must call the Civil Business Office in the location to which your case is assigned. For Central, the phone number is 619-450-7275. For North County, the phone number is 760-201- 8243. Ex parte hearings for cases assigned to the Central Division will be available only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Ex parte hearings for cases assigned to the North County Division will be available only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Non-Independent Calendar departments are conducting ex parte hearings using MS Teams. Please visit the Court’s COVID-19 information page for MS Teams links and phone numbers.~~

**~~Motions~~**

~~Reservations for most Civil Independent Calendar Department motions may be made using the Court’s Reserve a Motion Date application which can be accessed from sdcourt.ca.gov/Civil or using the “Reserve a Civil Motion Date”~~

~~icon on the Court’s homepage under Online Services.~~

 ~~Effective December 4, 2020, reservations for most Civil Independent Calendar Department motions may be made using the Court’s Reserve a Motion Date application which can be accessed from~~ [~~https://racd.sdcourt.ca.gov/~~](https://racd.sdcourt.ca.gov/) ~~or using the “Reserve a Civil Motion Date” icon on the Court’s homepage under Online Services.~~

**~~Informal Discovery~~**

~~If you want to have an informal discovery conference related to an ongoing discovery dispute either for a motion that was previously set on calendar, or for a new discovery dispute, you should contact the independent calendar clerk for the department to which your case is assigned to set an ex parte hearing to discuss your discovery matter and obtain a referral.~~

~~Please note: All informal discovery conference requests require approval from the independent calendar judge to whom your case is assigned. The independent calendar judge to whom your case is assigned can hear your informal discovery conference, or you may ask and/or be referred to one of the overflow Civil judges assigned to informal discovery conferences. The overflow judges who will be hearing the conferences are Hon. Kevin A. Enright and Hon. Robert Longstreth.~~

~~In preparation for an informal discovery conference, the parties shall each electronically file a brief no more than five pages in length, outlining the areas in dispute at least five days before the informal discovery conference. If the discovery dispute does not resolve informally, the parties’ attorneys may stipulate to a dispositive hearing following the informal discovery conference by using the Stipulation for Discovery Determination Following Informal Discovery Conference Form (SDSC Form #CIV-405). It is anticipated that this hearing will be scheduled promptly, thus resolving the discovery issue. If there is no stipulation and the discovery matter is not resolved, the case is referred back to the independent calendar department for a noticed motion hearing in due course.~~

**SACRAMENTO SUPERIOR COURT**

The Court’s current services are detailed and outlined on the COVID-19 webpage by division at the following link: <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/coronavirus.aspx>

Stay Home if you are Sick - Anyone who is sick or who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted to enter any court facility. If you are scheduled for jury service and are ill, please contact the Jury Office at (916) 874-7775 or by requesting a postponement or excuse from jury service online.

Reduction in Jurors – We are significantly reducing the number of jurors being asked to report for jury service at any one time and will be staggering arrival times throughout the day.

Face Coverings – As of May 2, 2022, masks are strongly recommended but not required while in the courthouse. However, each Judicial Officer will have the discretion to require that masks be worn in their courtroom by all court participants.

Enhanced Sanitation - We have increased the amount of routine cleaning, with a focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas including elevators, courtrooms, jury assembly rooms and restrooms.

***~~Filing counters and clerk’s offices generally remain closed~~***~~. There are limited “in-person” hearings being held at this time. Only those persons with court hearings in specified criminal actions or any matter authorized under the resumption of expanded services orders shall enter a Sacramento Superior Court facility on the day of the hearing.~~

~~For additional details, please refer to the Order – Access to Court Proceedings by the General Public-Restricted:~~ [~~https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/docs/order-amended-public-restricted-access.pdf~~](https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/docs/order-amended-public-restricted-access.pdf)

 ~~Minimal orders remain in effect that prescribe the filing types that still remain under the filing holiday period. The recent order is located here:~~ [~~https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/docs/order-implementation-of-emergency-relief02112021.pdf~~](https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/docs/order-implementation-of-emergency-relief02112021.pdf)

~~All civil filings are accepted by US mail or drop box.~~

~~Civil matters including civil harassment restraining orders, gun violence restraining orders, petitions for compromise of claims of minors with accompanying applications for appointment of guardian ad litem, complex civil departments, writ of mandate departments, civil law and motion departments, Presiding Judge law and motion, short cause civil trials, and mandatory and voluntary settlement conferences are being conducted through hearings conducted via remote technology. Orders of Examination (OX) proceedings are being conducted in-person. Civil bench and jury trials are being conducted remotely or in-person on a case-by-case basis. The Trial Setting Process continues in limited operation as set forth in the Court’s Public Notices.~~

~~The Civil Filing Guidelines for Civil Services located at Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse and Hall of Justice can be found at the following link:~~ [~~https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/civil/civil.aspx~~](https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/civil/civil.aspx)

~~All hearings will be conducted remotely via the interactive video conferencing application Zoom or by Court Call, unless specifically indicated otherwise.~~

~~The civil calendars are posted weekly and indicate what matters are held remotely or in person and can be found at the following link:~~ [~~https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/criminal/hearinglivestreams.aspx~~](https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/criminal/hearinglivestreams.aspx)

**~~Re-Referral of Additional Cases to COVID-19 Trial Setting Process (TSP)~~**

~~Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presiding Judge’s March 17, 2020 Order re: Implementation of Emergency Relief (March 17th Order), among other things, continued until further notice, all previously-set Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) and trial dates. From August through December 2020, all cases remaining at-issue that had lost trial dates previously set in Department 47 were re-referred to the COVID-19 Trial Setting Process (TSP) for selection of new MSC and trial dates.~~

~~Additionally, the March 17th Order also halted the initial setting of MSC and trial dates for those cases that had been referred to the Trial Setting Process by the Case Management Program (CMP) Departments, but had not yet selected MSC and trial dates in the first instance as of March 17, 2020.~~

~~Commencing February 16, 2021, for those cases that had been referred to TSP, but had not yet selected MSC and trial dates as of March 17, 2020, the Court will begin re-referring such cases in groups and phases to TSP for the parties’ selection of MSC and trial dates, provided the case has not been settled/dismissed and remains at-issue. Earliest available trial dates for this group of cases will begin in November 2021. Earliest available corresponding MSC dates will begin in October 2021.~~

~~Each case that is re-referred to TSP for selection of MSC and trial dates will receive a case-specific re-referral order. The re-referral order will direct the parties to the “COVID-19 Trial Setting Process” webpage. The parties shall then follow the instructions on the webpage in meeting and conferring and submitting to the Court their preferred MSC and trial dates. Parties shall not utilize the COVID-19 TSP webpage unless and until they have received their case specific re-referral order.~~

~~The Court will send re-referral orders for these cases during the period of February through June 2021. The Court will issue one group of re-referral orders approximately each week. Cases will be placed in groups generally following the sequence that they were due to select MSC and trial dates based upon the prior referral to TSP by the CMP Department.~~

~~Parties that receive their re-referral order may select any dates indicated as available on the COVID-19 TSP webpage. The COVID-19 TSP webpage generally allows selection of trial dates (and corresponding MSC dates) over a rolling two-year period (e.g., if dates are available beginning November 2021, the range of dates available will be through November 2023). As MSC and trial dates are filled through the COVID-19 TSP webpage, they will become unavailable for selection. The maximum number of MSCs and trials that may be set each week will be limited in accordance with the Court’s anticipated capacity to conduct civil trials. This will remain subject to adjustment as public health and safety requirements and Court operations may change.~~

~~If the parties fail to submit their agreed upon dates on or before the 60th calendar day after the date of the Court’s re-referral order, the Court will select the dates for MSC and trial. Parties are advised that the longer they wait to submit their preferred dates, the more likely dates that were available earlier will be selected by other cases and become unavailable. The available dates on the COVID-19 TSP webpage are continuously updated such that dates are closed and appear unavailable as they become filled.~~

~~Until further notice, the Court intends to conduct MSCs via remote teleconferencing technology with only the settlement judge physically present in Department 59. This is anticipated to change when public health conditions and safety protocols allow in-person MSCs to resume. Trials are anticipated to be held in-person subject to the Court’s COVID-19 trial protocols until further notice.~~

~~The Court advises the parties that the Court’s re-referral of cases to TSP for selection of MSC and trial dates is based upon current projections regarding the Court’s anticipated ability and capacity to hold civil trials at the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse (Schaber Courthouse) by the time of the dates available through the COVID-19 TSP webpage. The Court will continue to evaluate the environmental conditions and required health and safety measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and case backlogs and related impacts on Court operations. The Court will advise if additional changes to future operations, including civil trials, become necessary.~~

**~~Cases with Statutory Preferences~~**

~~In the event that a party in a case with a granted statutory preference requires a specially set trial date that is unavailable through the COVID-19 TSP webpage, such request must be made by application or motion to Department 47. Cases seeking statutory preference in the first instance must file a motion on the Department 47 law and motion calendar. In either instance, if they have received their re-referral order, the parties are advised to select dates through the COVID-19 TSP webpage prior to seeking relief considering the possibility that the request may not be granted.~~

**~~Cases with 5-Year or 3-Year Statute Issues~~**

~~Emergency Rule 10 extended the time in which to bring a civil action to trial for all cases filed on or before April 6, 2020. For such cases, the five-year period in Civil Procedure Code section 583.310 is extended by six months, for a total time of five years and six months. The three-year period in Civil Procedure Code section 583.320 is extended by six months, for a total time of three years and six months.~~

~~If the trial dates available on the COVID-19 TSP webpage do not include any dates early enough to satisfy the applicable five-year or three-year timeframes as extended by Emergency Rule 10, the parties are advised to meet and confer regarding extension of the period pursuant to Civil Procedure Code section 583.330(b). If the parties are unable to resolve the issue by stipulation, the parties may file an appropriate application or motion in Department 47.~~

**~~Cases Pre-Assigned to a Judge for Trial and/or Otherwise Rescheduled~~**

~~Cases that have been pre-assigned to a judge for trial shall be subject to setting or rescheduling of trial and MSC dates pursuant to the trial judge’s discretion, taking into consideration the anticipated status of Court operations including the Court’s ability and capacity to hold civil trials at the Schaber Courthouse. The Court’s re-referral of cases to TSP applies only to those cases that had been previously referred to TSP, but had not yet selected MSC and trial dates as of March 17, 2020, remain at-issue, and are not being rescheduled through other Court divisions (e.g., Probate trials).~~

**~~Cases That Had Not Been Referred To TSP as of March 17, 2020~~**

 ~~Cases that had not been referred to TSP as of March 17, 2020, remain in the Case Management Program (CMP). The Court’s CMP Departments have been and remain suspended until further notice. Upon reopening of the CMP Departments, the Court will resume Case Management Conferences, including new referrals of cases to TSP. Parties are to accomplish service of all parties named in the action. Parties shall continue to ensure that all Defendants and Cross-defendants have answered, been dismissed, or had their defaults entered.~~

**SAN BERNARDINO SUPERIOR COURT**

Please check this website frequently, as court services may change frequently in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.sb-court.org/general-information/covid-19-court-operations-during-covid-19-pandemic>).

Effective Monday, March 7, 2022, face coverings are no longer required, though strongly recommended, when entering any court location regardless of vaccination status per the recent updated from the California Department of Public Health and Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-5-22.

AS A REMINDER, DO NOT COME INTO ANY COURT LOCATION IF YOU HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, HAVE BEEN RECENTLY EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19, FEELING ILL WITH COVID RELATED SYMPTOMS, OR HAVE BEEN ASKED TO QUARANTINE BY A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.

The Court encourages all users to access remote service options to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Remote services include: ability to submit filings by mail, fax, drop box, TurboCourt, and outside walk-up windows available at most court locations. Payments can also be made online or via phone.

**Jury Services**

SBSC has resumed jury trials. Please check your jury reporting status before coming to court and review Jury Safety Protocols.

 Log onto the jury portal service <https://www.sb-court.org/jury-information/juror-portal> or Call (909) 884-1858

**Self-Help Resources**

Self-help services are easily accessible online by visiting https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/. Phone services are limited and available Monday-Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In-person services are available at the San Bernardino, Child Support, Fontana, Barstow and Victorville locations Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Services are available on the fourth Friday of every month in Joshua Tree from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visit [www.sb-court.org/self-help](http://www.sb-court.org/self-help) for more information.

 **Court Appearances**

SBSC has resumed hearings for all case types. When your case is set for a hearing, the court will send you a Notice of Hearing to appear in person. In some instances, your attorney may appear on your behalf. The notice will contain information about the hearing, including the courthouse location, department (courtroom), date and time.

**Remote Access and Payment Options**

Court users may access many court services remotely. Documents may be filed by regular mail, drop box, fax and Turbo Court. Court appearances may be made by telephone (if approved by the judge presiding) using CourtCall. Payments can be made at <https://portal.sb-court.org/Portal/>. Self-help services can be accessed through DASH <https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/>.

**Telephone Services**

Telephone services are available from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Noon), Monday through Friday at most court locations (See Public Notice) except court holidays, Big Bear and Needles. A very limited number of court staff are available to answer phones. Please anticipate lengthy wait times for telephone service. The Appeals Division and the Call Center has public phone hours from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Noon) and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**COURT SERVICES AND LIMITED PUBLIC HOURS**
Please click on the hyperlinks below to view a one page summary on court services offered specific to location and case type.

| **Court Location/Division** | **Limited Public Hours** | **Case Types** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Barstow | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Small Claims and Landlord TenantTrafficSelf-Help |
| Big Bear | 1st Wednesday of the Month9:30 am – 1:30 pm | Traffic |
| Child Support | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Child SupportSelf-Help |
| Fontana | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Small Claims and Landlord TenantTrafficSelf-Help |
| Historic(Family Law) | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Family LawFamily and Children ServicesSelf-Help |
| Joshua Tree | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Small Claims and Landlord TenantTrafficFamily LawCriminalSelf-Help |
| Juvenile | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Juvenile DependencyJuvenile Delinquency |
| Needles | 1st Friday of the Month8:30 am – 12:30 pm | Traffic |
| Rancho Cucamonga | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | CriminalTrafficAppealsJury |
| San Bernardino Justice Center(SBJC) | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | CivilCriminalProbateJury |
| Victorville | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm | CriminalFamily LawJuvenile DelinquencySelf-HelpJury |
| Self-Help | <https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/Self%20Help/SelfHelpLocationsServices.pdf>  |   |
| Call Center(Payments andGeneral Inquiries) | Monday – Friday8:00 am – 4:00 pm*Available by phone only* |   |

~~DO NOT COME TO COURT IF YOU ARE FEELING ILL, HAVE COVID-19 OR HAVE BEEN AROUND SOMEONE WITH COVID-19.~~

**~~Before you come to court:~~**

~~In an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to San Bernardino Superior~~

~~Court employees and the public, anyone entering a courthouse or court facility~~

~~must self-screen themselves before coming into any building by using the following~~

~~questionnaire.~~

~~IN THE PAST 24 HOURS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:~~

~~ Fever of 100.4 or higher?~~

~~ New or worsening cough?~~

~~ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?~~

~~ Sore throat?~~

~~ Vomiting or diarrhea (excluding diarrhea due to known medical reason~~

~~other than COVID-19)?~~

~~ Whole body aches?~~

~~ Chills?~~

~~ Have you had close contact with, or care for, someone diagnosed with~~

~~COVID-19 within the last 14 days?~~

~~IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS OR DO NOT FEEL WELL, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER ANY COURTHOUSE AND INSTEAD USE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO COMING IN. IF YOU HAVE A SCHEDULED HEARING OR SOME OTHER MATTER, PLEASE CALL THE COURT TO RESCHEDULE.~~

~~If you have a hearing (telephonic or in-person), you should still come to court unless you are experiencing fever, chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, etc., or have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, or asked to self-quarantine which prohibits you from entering any court facility or courthouse.~~

~~Presiding Judge Michael A. Sachs has ordered all persons to wear a face covering at all times and maintain six feet of social distance between you and others while inside any court location (See~~[~~General Order~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/News%20Notices/2ndAmendmentToGOFaceCoveringsAndSocialDistance.pdf)~~). Security and Sheriff’s personnel will turn away any person not following this order.~~

~~The San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) continues to follow all~~[~~Centers for Disease Control and Prevention~~](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)~~(CDC) guidelines, and state and~~[~~local public health orders~~](https://sbcovid19.com/)~~to ensure the safety of all court users, judicial officers and employees while balancing access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic (See~~[~~Court's Statement~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/News%20Notices/SafetyAndAccessToJusticeDuringCOVID-19.pdf)~~). By following the guidelines provided by Governor Gavin Newsom and orders by the San Bernardino County Public Health Officer, SBSC has been able to restore most services, please check the pandemic operations roadmap for each court location and case type for specific details (See~~[~~Chart Below~~](https://www.sb-court.org/general-information/covid-19-court-operations-during-covid-19-pandemic##CourtServices)~~). Effective January 4, 2021, all clerk’s offices are limited to the public from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Monday through Friday (except Needles and Big Bear) and continue to accept only limited filings (See~~[~~Chart Below~~](https://www.sb-court.org/general-information/covid-19-court-operations-during-covid-19-pandemic##CourtServices)~~) in the clerk’s office. The Court encourages all users to access remote service options to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Remote services include: ability to submit filings by mail, fax, drop box, TurboCourt, and outside walk-up windows available at most court locations. Payments can also be made online or via phone.~~

**~~JURY SERVICE~~**

~~The Court will begin to resume new jury trials on February 16, 2021 with safety protocols in place due to lift of the regional stay-at-home order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom. Please check your jury reporting status before coming to court and review~~[~~Jury Safety Protocols~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/Jury%20Information/JuryCOVID-19Precautions.pdf)~~.~~

~~Log onto the jury portal service~~[~~https://www.sb-court.org/jury-information/juror-portal~~](https://www.sb-court.org/jury-information/juror-portal) ~~or Call~~~~(909) 884-1858~~~~or~~~~1-866-402-5879~~

**~~SELF-HELP RESOURCES~~**

~~Self-help services are easily accessible online by visiting~~[~~https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/~~](https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/)~~. Phone services are limited and available Monday-Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Limited in-person services are available in San Bernardino, Child Support, Fontana, and Victorville locations Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-Noon and in Barstow, Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-Noon, and the fourth Friday of every month in Joshua Tree from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Visit~~[~~www.sb-court.org/self-help~~](http://www.sb-court.org/self-help)~~for more information.~~

**~~COURT APPEARANCES~~**

~~SBSC has resumed hearings for all case types (except Small Claims which resumes on February 1, 2021. See~~[~~Public Notice~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/News%20Notices/CourtResumesSmallClaimsHearingsEffFeb012021.pdf)~~). When your case is set for a hearing, the court will send you a Notice of Hearing to appear in person. In some instances, your attorney may appear on your behalf. The notice will contain information about the hearing, including the courthouse location, department (courtroom), date and time.~~

**~~REMOTE ACCESS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS~~**

~~Court users may access many court services remotely. Documents may be filed by regular mail, drop box, fax and Turbo Court. Court appearances may be made by telephone (if approved by the judge presiding) using CourtCall. Payments can be made at~~[~~https://portal.sb-court.org/Portal/~~](https://portal.sb-court.org/Portal/)~~. Self-help services can be accessed through DASH~~[~~https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/~~](https://dash.sb-court.org/en-US/)~~.~~

**~~TELEPHONE SERVICES~~**

~~Telephone services are now limited from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at most court locations (See~~[~~Public Notice~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/News%20Notices/ReducedClerksOfficeHrsEffJan042021.pdf)~~), except court holidays, Big Bear and Needles. A very limited number of court staff are available to answer phones. Please anticipate lengthy wait times for telephone service. The call center has expanded public service hours from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for payments and general inquiries.~~

**~~COURT SERVICES AND LIMITED PUBLIC HOURS~~**

| **~~Court Location/Division~~** | **~~Limited Public Hours~~** | **~~Case Types~~** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [~~Barstow~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsBarstow.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Small Claims and Landlord Tenant~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSmallClaimsLandlordTenant.pdf)[~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) |
| ~~Big Bear~~ | ~~1st Wednesday of the Month9:30 am – 1:30 pm~~ | [~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf) |
| [~~Child Support~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsChildSupport.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Child Support~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsChildSupport.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) |
| [~~Fontana~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsFontana.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Small Claims and Landlord Tenant~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSmallClaimsLandlordTenant.pdf)[~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) |
| [~~Historic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsHistoric.pdf)~~(Family Law)~~ | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Family Law~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsFamilyLaw.pdf)[~~Family and Children Services~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsFamilyAndChildrenServices.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) |
| [~~Joshua Tree~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJoshuaTree.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Small Claims and Landlord Tenant~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSmallClaimsLandlordTenant.pdf)[~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf)[~~Family Law~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsFamilyLaw.pdf)[~~Criminal~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsCriminal.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) |
| ~~Juvenile~~ | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Juvenile Dependency~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJuvenileDependency.pdf)[~~Juvenile Delinquency~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJuvenileDelinquency.pdf) |
| ~~Needles~~ | ~~1st Friday of the Month8:30 am – 12:30 pm~~ | [~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf) |
| [~~Rancho Cucamonga~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsRanchoAppeals.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Criminal~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsCriminal.pdf)[~~Traffic~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsTraffic.pdf)[~~Appeals~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsRanchoAppeals.pdf)[~~Jury~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJury.pdf) |
| [~~San Bernardino Justice Center~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSBJC.pdf)~~(SBJC)~~ | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Civil~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsCivil.pdf)[~~Criminal~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsCriminal.pdf)[~~Probate~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsProbate.pdf)[~~Jury~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJury.pdf) |
| [~~Victorville~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsVictorville.pdf) | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 12:00 pm~~ | [~~Criminal~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsCriminal.pdf)[~~Family Law~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsFamilyLaw.pdf)[~~Juvenile Delinquency~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJuvenileDelinquency.pdf)[~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf)[~~Jury~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsJury.pdf) |
| [~~Self-Help~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToPanOpsSelfHelp.pdf) | [~~In-person services and phone hours vary by location~~](https://www.sb-court.org/sites/default/files/Self%20Help/SelfHelpLocationsServices.pdf) |  |
| ~~Call Center(Payments andGeneral Inquiries)~~ | ~~Monday – Friday8:00 am – 2:00 pm~~*~~Available by phone only~~* |  |

**SANTA CLARA SUPERIOR COURT**

Effective Monday, June 13, 2022 many courtrooms at the Downtown and Historic Courthouses located at 161 and 191 North First Street, San Jose will be utilizing remote technology for all appearances. Please note that unless your court hearing is scheduled in a courtroom identified as “In Person Appearance”, you must participate in your hearing by using the remote technologies available.

Face coverings are no longer required, though strongly recommended, when entering any court location regardless of vaccination status.

**Remote Appearances ONLY**

Except as noted below, video links for these courtrooms are available on our website. Please access the necessary video links on our website at <https://www.scscourt.org/general_info/ra_teams/video_hearings_teams.shtml>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Department 1\* See below for exception  | Department 2 | Department 3 |
| Department 7 | Department 19 | Department 20\* *Zoom info available at the link above* |
| Department 5\* See below for exception  | Department 6 | Department 8 |
| Department 9 | Department 10 | Department 12 |
| Department 13 | Department 16 | Department 21 |
| Department 22 |  |  |

**In Person Appearances – If you have a court hearing in the following courtrooms, please be sure you are physically present at the courthouse.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Department 1\* Remote via Teams or in person Monday AM Wednesday AM  | Department 5 – Remote via Teams or in person Tuesday PM Friday AM  | Department 4 |
| Department 11 | Department 15 | **\*\*Any courtrooms conducting jury trials\*\*** |

All jury trials will remain in person.

All small claims cases will remain in person; no remote appearances are permitted.

~~On March 3, 2021, Santa Clara County moved into the Red Tier. The Public Health Department states that despite the recent progress, Santa Clara County continues to experience high rates of COVID-19 transmission, and the danger COVID-19 poses to our community remains substantial. The County Health Officer urges businesses, entities, and residents to continue exercising caution.~~

~~The Court must continue to employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and Court functions must be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent feasible. The Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least six feet of physical distance and wearing face coverings.~~

~~Although the federal Constitution generally precludes closure of substantive courtroom proceedings in criminal cases and California's Code of Civil Procedure section 124 generally precludes closure of substantive courtroom proceedings in civil proceedings, the current COVID-19 crisis clearly demonstrates an overriding interest supporting restricting courthouse entry and permitting access to only those persons who appear in person in any Santa Clara County courthouse to appear at a court hearing or conduct official business with the court. Public health and safety would be prejudiced absent such a restriction, which is narrowly tailored to permit only those appearing at a court hearing or conducting official business with the court to enter the County’s courthouses; there is no less restrictive means of achieving this overriding interest. (NBC Subsidiary (KNBC-TV), Inc. v. Superior Court (1999) 20 Cal.4th 1178, 1181–1182.)~~

~~The Court rescinds its General Order Restricting Courthouse Entry issued December 1, 2020 and reinstates its General Order Restricting Courthouse Entry which was effective on June 15, 2020. It is therefore ordered that access to any and all courthouses is restricted to those persons appearing at a court hearing or conducting official business with the court. No other persons will be permitted entry without good cause.~~

~~On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, the State of California announced that Santa Clara County had met the requirements to move into the Red Tier of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, effective March 3. The County’s October 5th Risk Reduction Order, which requires everyone to follow all State orders and guidance, maintain social distancing, and wear face coverings as much as possible, will remain in effect.~~

~~Effective Monday, March 8, 2021, the Court reopened the clerk’s offices at the Family Justice Center Courthouse, Downtown Superior Courthouse, and the Hall of Justice (the Morgan Hill and Palo Alto courthouses remain closed to the public). The Traffic Court Clerk's Offices at the Santa Clara Courthouse reopened for in-person business on February 16, 2021. Social distancing protocols and site-specific protection plans will remain in effect. The Court will limit courthouse entry to only those who have specific business with the Court as a party in a hearing, for in-person business with the clerk’s office, or assistance with the self-help center.~~

 ~~Please be advised that effective August 17, 2020, the business hours at all courthouse locations will be Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., and Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.~~

~~Parties and counsel are strongly encouraged to arrange for telephonic appearances through CourtCall.~~

~~A public access phone line will be provided for listen-only participant.~~

**VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

Beginning Monday, July 18, 2022, all individuals regardless of vaccination status are required to wear masks in the courthouses. Please bring your own mask. Face masks are required.

To protect the health and safety of all court users, the court is requiring appointments for service at the Civil, Small Claims and Family Law Clerks’ Offices at the Hall of Justice (Ventura) and at the Clerk’s Office at the Juvenile Justice Center (Oxnard). Appointments are also required for Family Law and Civil Self-Help; Records & Exhibits; Collections; and Family Law Mediation. (See below: “Schedule an Appointment”). Walk-in service is not currently available. No appointments are necessary for the outside walk-up windows at the Hall of Justice and the East County Courthouse (Simi Valley) which are open for Criminal/Traffic and Collection Filings/Payments.

E-Delivery and the drop boxes at the Hall of Justice and the Juvenile Justice Center are available for civil, small claims, family, probate, and appeals filings up to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. Documents may also be submitted through U.S. mail.

Remote appearance may be available for certain hearings. Click on Remote Appearances below for more information about the process to request a remote appearance in civil, family law and probate hearings. You can also visit the Divisions tab for your type of case to see what type of appearance may be available.

<http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/pdf_files/RemoteAppearance_CourtWebsite.pdf>

The court will continue to broadcast live audio streams of certain court proceedings pursuant to the provisions and limitations of Amended Administrative Order 21.25. (<http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/orders/AO_21-25_Amended_Court_Processes_and_Procedures_During_COVID-19.pdf>)

Civil Mandatory Settlement Conferences are conducted in Courtroom 22. If a party/attorney is not able to appear remotely using the Zoom platform they are to contact the Courtroom 22 judicial secretary for a continuance. (Please consult the “Civil” Divisions tab on this website for further details).

All Small Claims trials are conducted at the East County Courthouse with parties encouraged to appear by CourtCall. (Please see Amended Administrative Order 20.22 for details).

Summoned jurors are to check the Jury Service page on this website for reporting times and other updates.

For criminal hearings and trials, if you are currently represented by the Public Defender – contact your assigned attorney BEFORE coming to court for instructions. If you have a hearing on calendar for a MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY, visit Online Public Access for your specific case information. If you are **unable to hire your own attorney --- you may contact the Public Defender’s Office.**

~~Pursuant to Government Code §68106, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is providing sixty (60) days notice of limited operation days.~~

~~The majority of the courtrooms and all of the clerk’s offices will be closed to mitigate the impact of employee furlough days on court operations on the following days:~~

~~May 5 & 19, 2021 June 9 & 23, 2021~~

~~These days are not court holidays, so statutory deadlines will not be extended. Documents may be submitted through the United States mail or drop boxes located at the entrance to the Hall of Justice and Juvenile courthouses. In civil, family, probate, appeals and/or small claims, documents may also be submitted by eDelivery. The clerk’s offices will be closed to in-person services. Documents received by 4 p.m. and accepted for filing, will be filed that same business day. Documents received after 4 p.m. will be processed and filed the following business day. Documents placed in the drop boxes by 4:00 p.m. are deemed deposited for filing that same business day. An exterior walk-up window on the north side of the Hall of Justice at the Government Center near parking lots A, B and C will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the East County Courthouse walk-up window will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for handling criminal/traffic and collections payments only.~~

~~Most cases already calendared for hearing will be rescheduled and the affected parties notified by the court. Limited courtrooms will be open to hear urgent criminal, juvenile, unlawful detainer, and temporary restraining order issues.~~

~~While the court regrets having to take the above actions, it is required to address the reduction in funding to the California court system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Governor and Legislature have approved a reduction of $200 million, in budget cuts to the judicial branch. For fiscal year 2020-2021, the Ventura Superior Court budget has a structural deficit of $5.7 million.~~

~~The court has instituted various cost saving measures, including furloughs, eliminating or freezing vacant positions, reengineering court processes for efficiencies and reducing expenditures of services and supplies. Limited court closures are needed to manage the large number of furlough days. The above dates were selected to minimize the impact on the public and court staff by spreading out the dates through the fiscal year and court business is generally slower in the middle of the business week and around holidays.~~

~~Anyone wishing to comment on this proposed plan may do so, by either regular mail or e-mail, by September 28, 2020. Please direct your response to: Michael D. Planet, Court Executive Officer P.O. Box 6489 Ventura, CA 93006-6489 or~~ ~~closureresponse@ventura.courts.ca.gov~~

~~BEGINNING MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021, appointment check-in will move to the Hall of Justice Cafeteria for the following clerk’s offices: Civil, Family, Small Claims, Appeals & Mental Health, Records & Exhibits; Civil & Family Self-help Centers and Collections. The cafeteria entrance is located on the South side of the Hall of Justice, off the Plaza between the Hall of Justice & Hall of Administration Buildings. Please use parking lots E, F or G. Entrances to the parking lots are from Hill Road and Telephone Road.~~

~~If you have a hearing or trial on calendar for Family Law, Civil, Appeals or Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment or Elder Abuse Restraining Order, you must check-in at the North entrance of the Hall of Justice, (Ventura Courthouse entrance next to the 126 freeway). Please use parking lots A, B, C or D. Entrances to the parking lots are from Victoria Ave., and or Webster St.~~

~~Parties and counsel are strongly encouraged to arrange for telephonic appearances through CourtCall.~~

**SAN LUIS OBISPO SUPERIOR COURT**

Public access to the San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles and Grover Beach courthouses is limited to matters on the calendar that day. The document drop-boxes are available now in San Luis Obispo and in Paso Robles as of 4-5-2021.

All other business with the Court is currently being done remotely. See the list of Remote Access Options below.

Face Coverings are required in all San Luis Obispo County Courtrooms for all attendees present, per Emergency Local Rule 32.02.

Persons not fully vaccinated are required to face coverings in all areas of the San Luis Obispo Courthouses.

**Remote Access Options**

* Court staff are available to assist with all Court business by phone: 805-706-3600.
* [Pay your traffic ticket](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/traffic/pay-your-ticket) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/traffic/pay-your-ticket>
* [Online Payment options](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/online-services/pay-fines) for Criminal and Traffic fines, Family Law fees and Collections cases - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/online-services/pay-fines>
* [File documents with the Court electronically](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/online-services/online-case-filing) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/online-services/online-case-filing>
* [Find your Court date](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/general-information/court-calendars) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/general-information/court-calendars>
* Drop-box: The San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles courthouses have document drop-boxes available for use by the public. ***Please do not put cash payments in the drop-box.***
* Submit an Emergency Agreement Form for a Civil, Family, or Probate case:
	+ [Emergency Agreement Form – Civil](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/documents/san-luis-obispo/E-1.pdf) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=e-1-emergency-agreement-form-civil.pdf>
	+ [Stipulation to Waive Hearing – Family](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/documents/san-luis-obispo/E-1FL.pdf) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=e-1fl-stipulation-waive-hearing.pdf>
	+ [Emergency Agreement Form – Probate](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/documents/san-luis-obispo/E-1P.pdf) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=e-1p-emergency-agreement-form-probate.pdf>
	+ [Get copies of Civil, Family Law, or Probate Court cases](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/sh/selfhelp-civilcourtfiles.htm) - <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/self-help/civil-appeals/getting-copies-court-file>

~~Public access to the San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles and Grover Beach courthouses is limited to matters on the calendar that day.~~

~~All other business with the Court is currently being done remotely.~~

~~Face coverings and social distancing are required in all San Luis Obispo County courthouses.~~

~~Effective Monday, March 1, 2021, the public phone hours for the Civil and Criminal departments will change to:~~

~~Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.~~

~~Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.~~

~~For all court business the public access phone number is (805) 706-3600. Please see~~ [~~www.slo.courts.ca.gov~~](http://www.slo.courts.ca.gov) ~~for our department email addresses which will continue to be attended between the hours of 8:30-4:00 Monday through Friday.~~

**~~Remote Appearances~~**

~~Parties and counsel should use the following link to obtain the Zoom link for any court motion appearance.~~

[~~https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dasAAcABoLnmC4YOOuREG\_Y2eThjGVHz/view~~](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dasAAcABoLnmC4YOOuREG_Y2eThjGVHz/view)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT – CENTRAL**

The United States District Court for the Central District of California continues to closely monitor the national response to the respiratory illness caused by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). We would like to assure the public that we are following all recommended guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the safety and health of our customers and staff.

Effective immediately and until further notice, the Court grants to mediators the authority to excuse a party, a party’s representative, or an attorney from in-person attendance at a mediation conducted under General Order No. 11-10. At the discretion of the assigned mediator, mediations held through the Court’s ADR Program may be conducted by video or telephone conference.

Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the Chief Judge orders as follows:

* Civil and criminal jury trials shall resume on February 22, 2022.
* For the reasons stated above and in Orders of the Chief Judge 22-001 and 22-002, the suspension of criminal jury trials in the Central District of California serves the ends of justice and outweighs the interests of the public and defendants in a speedy trial.
* On February 22, 2022, the operations of all divisions shall return to being governed by General Order 21-08 until further notice.
* Per General Order 21-08, all individuals seeking entry to, or occupying, the United States Courthouses or Probation and Pretrial Services Offices in the Central District of California and everyone in the courtroom for in-court proceedings must follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s most recent guidance regarding face coverings or mask.

Pursuant to [General Order 21-08](https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/general-orders/GO%2021-08.pdf), individuals seeking entry to, or occupying, the United States Courthouses, including while in the courtroom for in-court proceedings, and Probation and Pretrial Services Offices in the Central District of California must follow the most recent guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding face coverings or masks.  Current CDC guidance provides that individuals in counties with a high COVID-19 community level, as defined by the CDC, should wear masks indoors in public.  If the COVID-19 community level is low or medium, CDC guidance provides that individuals may choose to mask based on personal preference or if they are at high risk for severe disease.  Based on data released by the CDC today, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Ventura Counties have high COVID-19 community levels.

Accordingly, per General Order 21-08, given the current COVID-19 community levels and CDC guidance, the following mask policies should be followed in the respective Courthouses and Probation and Pretrial Services Offices:

* Eastern Division (Riverside County): Everyone seeking entry to, or occupying, the Courthouse, including while in the courtroom for in-court proceedings, or Probation and Pretrial Services Office must wear a mask.
* Southern Division (Orange County): Everyone seeking entry to, or occupying, the Courthouse, including while in the courtroom for in-court proceedings, or Probation and Pretrial Services Office must wear a mask.
* Western Division (Los Angeles and Ventura Counties):  Everyone seeking entry to, or occupying, the Courthouse, including while in the courtroom for in-court proceedings, or Probation and Pretrial Services Office must wear a mask.

These mask policies are subject to change depending on the COVID-19 community level of the county where the courthouse is located or further order of the Court.

~~The United States District Court for the Central District of California’s Continuity of Operations (“COOP”) Plan expired at the close of January 29, 2021.  Limited operations will resume on Monday, February 1, 2021, as follows:~~

**~~Access to the Courthouses~~**

* ~~All Courthouses of the Central District of California will be closed to the public except as set forth below.~~
* ~~All federal Pro Se Clinics in the District are closed.~~

~~The Los Angeles, Santa Ana and Riverside Clinics are providing remote assistance via telephone and/or email.  Please contact them for more information:
Los Angeles: (213) 385-2977, Ext. 270 or tinyurl.com/fedproseclinic
Santa Ana: (714) 541-1010, Ext. 222
Riverside: (951) 778-9878 or~~~~RiversideProSeBankruptcyClinic@gmail.com(link sends e-mail)~~

**~~Court Hearings~~**

* ~~All appearances in civil cases will be by telephone or video conference.~~
* ~~Hearings in any criminal matter may proceed in court when the defendant does not consent to appear by telephone or video conference.  Members of the public will have access to such proceedings, including criminal bench duty proceedings, with a limit of 10 people present in the courtroom or in an overflow courtroom at one time at the discretion of the assigned judge.~~
* ~~Criminal bench duty will take place in each division by telephone or video conference with the defendant’s consent and in court absent consent.  Members of the public who wish to view criminal bench duty proceedings held by video conference will be permitted to enter the courthouses for this purpose with a limit of 10 people present in the courtroom at one time.  Members of the public may listen in on criminal bench duty proceedings held by telephone or video conference without coming to the courthouses.~~
* ~~For members of the press or public who wish to listen in on a hearing being held by telephone or video conference, refer to the assigned judge’s procedures and schedules web page or calendar for login-in or call-in information.  If login-in or call-in information is not available or to listen to or view a criminal bench duty matter, submit a~~[~~Hearing Access Request Form~~](https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/hearing-access-request-form)~~at least four hours prior to the hearing.~~

**~~Jury Trials~~**

* ~~Until further notice, no jury trials will be conducted in civil cases.  However, individual judges, at their discretion, may offer bench trials by video conference in lieu of postponement.~~
* ~~Until further notice, no jury trials will be conducted in criminal cases.~~

**~~Grand Jury Proceedings~~**

* ~~Grand jury proceedings will be permitted to resume.~~

**~~Filing Information~~**

* ~~The intake sections in each courthouse will be closed to the public.  To post a bond or submit an emergency, time-sensitive filing such as a temporary restraining order, call the following telephone numbers:~~

~~Los Angeles – (213) 894-8288
Riverside – (951) 328-4450
Santa Ana – (714) 338-3958 or (714) 338-4760~~

* ~~All criminal duty matters filed by the United States Attorney’s Office and handled by district judges shall be filed electronically.~~
* ~~All criminal document duty matters handled by magistrate judges shall be filed electronically.~~
* ~~For all other intake and records questions, call the following telephone numbers:~~

~~Los Angeles Civil Intake – (213) 894-3535
Los Angeles Criminal Intake – (213) 894-8288
Riverside Civil and Criminal Intake – (951) 328-4450
Santa Ana Civil Intake – (714) 338-2886
Santa Ana Criminal Intake – (714) 338-4786~~

* ~~The court’s CM/ECF system is available 24/7 for electronic filing of documents.~~
* ~~Unrepresented litigants who cannot electronically file their documents in the CM/ECF system may mail their filings to the Clerk of Court at 255 E. Temple Street, Suite TS-134, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3332 or submit documents for filing through the court’s~~[~~Electronic Document Submission System (EDSS)~~](https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/edss)~~.~~
* ~~Attorneys who are required to manually file documents pursuant to the local rules must mail their filings to the Clerk of Court at the above address.~~
* ~~Non-paper physical exhibits or other exhibits exempted from electronically filing shall be sent via U.S. Mail or other commercial delivery to the Clerk of Court at the above address.~~

**~~Mandatory Chambers Copies~~**

* ~~Until further notice, all district judges and magistrate judges do not require mandatory chambers copies during the pandemic.~~
* ~~Any judge can require chambers copies in a particular case if desired. The chambers copies shall be mailed to the judge via Fed Ex. Chambers copies cannot be hand-delivered to the courthouse.~~
* ~~Each judges has their own procedures and can be found using the below link:~~ [~~https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-schedules-procedures~~](https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-schedules-procedures)

**~~Naturalization Ceremonies~~**

* ~~Until further notice, the Court will not schedule or conduct any naturalization ceremonies.  During this temporary suspension of the Court’s naturalization ceremonies, the Court grants USCIS authority to perform administrative naturalization ceremonies.~~

~~The Court continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic as it evolves and will provide updates concerning the Court’s operations as adjustments are made.~~

**9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS**

This is an update on the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Court operations for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit:

**Oral Arguments**

In-person arguments have resumed as of March 1, 2022. Attorneys retain the option at this time to appear remotely by video without a motion. Please review the in-person hearing protocols and Amended Vaccination Order here.

Panels will continue to exercise their discretion under the rules to submit cases without argument; to hold hearings remotely; or to postpone argument to a later date. When in-person or remote argument is held, it will be live streamed to facilitate public access.

**Access to the Courthouses**

Until further notice, our courthouses remain closed to the general public. At this time, only those attorneys and parties who are scheduled to appear for oral argument or those invited to any other court meeting or event, and who provide advance proof of their vaccination status will be permitted in the courthouses.

**How to File Documents Attorneys:**

Attorneys and parties who have access to CM/ECF or ACMS are strongly encouraged to use it for everything, including new petitions for review and original proceedings.

Unrepresented / pro se litigants: Unrepresented, or pro se, litigants can file their documents in three ways:

1. Register for electronic case filing with CM/ECF. For more information, visit: <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/efiling/>

2. Submit the document through our Electronic Document Submission System. For more information, visit: <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/forms/pro-selitigants/>

3. Mail the document to the court.

For more information, visit: <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/general/faq/>

We also have a drop box in the lobby of the Browning Courthouse at 95 Seventh Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, and the Court continues to receive filings sent via U.S. Mail or commercial delivery services.

**Court Hours & Staffing**

Because we continue to have limited staff available in the courthouses to answer phone calls, we continue to accept and encourage that queries be sent by email to: questions@ca9.uscourts.gov. We will do our best to prioritize incoming filings and questions, but there might be some delay in responding. Emergency Applications A lawyer or litigant who seeks an emergency stay or relief that requires immediate attention should file a request per the instructions set out in the rules, by contacting the court at emergency@ca9.uscourts.gov or (415) 355-8020.

Further Updates Further updates will be posted on the Court’s website as the situation warrants.

 **~~Oral Arguments~~**

~~Arguments continue to be conducted as scheduled, with all judges and counsel appearing remotely by video or telephone. We expect fully remote hearings to continue at least through August 2020, and we will post an update if and when that changes. Panels will continue to exercise their discretion under the rules to submit cases without argument; to postpone argument to a later date; or to hold argument via telephone or video. When argument is held, it will be live streamed to facilitate public access.~~

**~~Access to the Courthouses~~**

~~Until further notice, our courthouses remain closed to the public. Attorneys andparties who have access to CM/ECF are strongly encouraged to use it for everything, including new petitions for review and original proceedings. If unrepresented litigants have access to email, they are encouraged to submit their filings, including petitions for review and all other pleadings, as PDF attachments, directly to the Court at this email address:~~ ~~prose\_pleadings@ca9.uscourts.gov~~~~. We also have a drop box in the lobby of the Browning Courthouse at 95 Seventh Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, and the Court continues to receive filings sent via U.S. Mail or commercial delivery services.~~

**~~Filing Deadlines~~**

~~Because the national response to the pandemic has disrupted services of all kinds, the Court will continue to extend non-jurisdictional filing dates as needed, but will now require a motion and a showing of cause pursuant to Circuit Rule 31-2.2. You are encouraged to use Form 14 in lieu of a written motion, or you may request a Streamlined Extension if eligible. As of July 1, 2020, the Court will no longer grant automatic extensions of time based solely on a notice.~~

**~~Court Hours & Staffing~~**

~~Because we have limited staff available in the courthouses to answer phone calls, we continue to accept and encourage that queries be sent by email to:~~ ~~questions@ca9.uscourts.gov~~ ~~We will do our best to prioritize incoming filings and questions, but there might be some delay in responding.~~

**~~Emergency Applications~~**

~~A lawyer or litigant who seeks an emergency stay or relief that requires immediate attention should file a request per the instructions set out in the rules, by contacting the court at emergency@ca9.uscourts.gov or (415) 355-8020.~~

~~Further updates will be posted on the Court’s website as the situation warrants.~~