



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SUTTER

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PUBLIC NOTICE

POSTED AND FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2020 5:00 p.m.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SUTTER COUNTY ANNOUNCES UPDATED ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATED: MARCH 19, 2020

Similar to other government agencies and California Trial Courts, the Superior Court of California, County of Sutter (Court) is closely monitoring the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The Court is in routine communication with Sutter County Public Health, other Sutter County justice agencies, other California Trial Courts, and the Judicial Council of California. We are working with these and other entities to ensure we have up-to-date information and can best weigh the need to provide access to justice to our community, while also supporting the activities of our public health agencies and the health of the public.

The Court initiated changes to its operations on March 15 and modified those changes on March 17. Effective **FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**, Sutter County Superior Court will further adjust its court operations. The court is reducing operations to focus on those that impact essential court functions, constitutional functions, public safety, children's safety, and those in other vulnerable categories. In total:

- Temporary Guardianships, Temporary Conservatorships, Civil Harassment and Elder Abuse Restraining orders, and requests for emergency relief matters will be heard as currently scheduled. All other civil matters, including small claims matters (excluding family law) which are currently on calendar between March 23, 2020 and April 10 will be continued, regardless of which department or judge is scheduled to hear the matter. The litigants will receive a minute order with the new court date and can check the court date through the online case access.
- All family law matters involving children, domestic violence restraining orders and dependency proceedings, will remain on calendar and be heard. Continuances will be liberally granted upon request and by stipulation of the parties.
- All family law matters which do not involve children and are currently on calendar between March 23, 2020 and April 10 will be subject to a rolling six-month continuance from the date of hearing. The Court will provide notice.

- Attorneys and parties are encouraged to make any necessary appearances by Court Call. A reduced fee of \$54 has been implemented for all Court Call appearances during the period from March 19, 2020 to and including April 30, 2020. A court call appearance can be scheduled by contacting Court Call LLC at 888-882-6878.
- The Court will remain open for drop box filings in civil and family law matters. A time stamp will be available and should be used for all drop box filings. Failure to use the time stamp will result in the drop box filing receiving a filing date at the time the clerk is able to process the papers submitted, which will not necessarily be the time the papers are placed in the drop box. Unlawful detainer papers will be processed within 60 days, not according to date stamp. The drop box will be reviewed every two hours for domestic violence restraining order applications, emergency child custody motions, and civil harassment restraining order applications. All agencies, attorneys and parties are encouraged to utilize e-filing.
- **All misdemeanor and felony criminal cases will be heard as scheduled or continued by stipulation of the parties, until further order of the court. Defense attorneys are encouraged to obtain oral 977 waivers and file written 977 waivers where appropriate.**
- The due date for an appearance and payment of bail on all traffic citations will be automatically extended by 60 days from the date shown on the citation. All traffic infraction arraignments and trials, and other infraction matters, which have been scheduled for arraignment and trial between March 23, 2020 and April 10, 2020 will be continued eight weeks from the current scheduled hearing date.
- Payments of fines and fees ordered in court, as well as payments on payment plans established for traffic citations or court-ordered fines and fees, that are due between March 18, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will receive a 60-day due date extension. Court-ordered fines and fees include adjudicated traffic infraction citations and any fines, fees, and assessments ordered by a judge in relation to a misdemeanor or felony matter.
- All DCSS cases will be subject to an eight-week continuance as a non-essential court service. The parties will be provided with notice.
- Records requests may be made online by e mail correspondence directed to trafficdivision@suttercourts.com. Written requests may be dropped in the public drop box.
- For Juvenile Court, the Court asks that all parties implement social distancing recommendations of 6 feet apart in the hallway and courtroom.
- The self-help center is closed to in-person assistance until further notice but is available for assistance by telephone and e mail at <https://www.suttercourts.com/self-help>.
- The Court asks that when entering a courtroom or finding seating in other areas of the courthouse, members of the public keep at least one vacant seat between themselves and the next unfamiliar person.

- The Court further asks that members allow space while waiting in lines, and that they not crowd elevators or other confined spaces. Court visitors may be asked to wait in hallways or outside courtrooms to minimize gathering sizes in closed areas. Please follow the accommodation, health, and safety directions of any Sheriff's Deputies or other Court Employees offering their assistance.
- If you are scheduled for a court appearance which has not been continued, and believe you are sick or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, please contact the Court Clerk's Office at 530-822-3000 for further information. If you have an attorney, contact your attorney before calling the Court. Defendants who have posted bail are encouraged to discuss the bail issues with their attorney and the bail bonding company.

The Court will continue to monitor the situation and will update this notice as circumstances warrant.

General Information on COVID-19

For more information, please visit Sutter County Public Health's website at:

https://www.suttercounty.org/doc/government/depts/cao/em/cs_es_home

Or, the California Department of Public Health at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

Or, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.