



PUBLIC NOTICE

Stanislaus County Superior Court

Updated Change in Services Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Effective May 18, 2020

Due to COVID-19, the number of persons entering the courthouse must be limited in order to meet social distancing requirements per public health guidelines. Therefore, effective May 18, 2020:

- The Courthouse remains open to the public, but priority to enter will be given to:
 - Attorneys, parties and witnesses scheduled to appear in court that day
 - Persons who need to conduct business in the clerk's office
- Friends and relatives of parties do not have priority status to enter the building (These restrictions do not apply to a designated support person (Family Code section 6303))
- Only a limited number of attorneys, parties and witnesses will be allowed entry at any given time
- Once maximum social distancing capacity is reached, no one will be allowed entry until another person exits
- Social distancing of six (6) feet must be maintained to the maximum extent possible at all times
- Due to the high volume of cases on the court's calendar, if you are not scheduled to appear in court or do not have official court business in the clerk's offices, it is unlikely you will be allowed to enter the building
- All persons are required to wear face coverings when conducting business at the court

Please do not come to court if you are sick or have a temperature.

COURT CLERK'S OFFICES

- Clerk's Offices will be **closed** through May 29
 - Phone services will be reinstated May 18
- Drop Boxes are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Use the Drop Boxes to file documents without waiting in line for a clerk

Please do not come to court unless you have an emergency issue or your matter is scheduled to be heard. To find out if your case will be heard, you may visit <https://portal.stanct.org/Portal/>

CRIMINAL

- Criminal arraignments will be heard daily
- No Time Waiver (NTW) preliminary hearings will be heard
- The Court will reschedule:
 - All time waived jury trials
 - All time waived preliminary hearings
 - All pretrials, law and motion hearings, and miscellaneous hearings

TRAFFIC

- The Court will reschedule and provide notice for:
 - All traffic infraction matters through May 29

CIVIL

- Most non-emergency Civil and Probate hearings will resume, however, remote appearances will be required for certain hearing types as follows:
 - All Civil Case Management Conferences, Law and Motion, and Ex Parte hearings will resume on May 18. Parties and counsel are required to appear remotely via Court Call for these hearings, unless, prior to the hearing, the court grants a request to appear in-person.
 - All Probate and Trust petition hearings, Law and Motion and Ex Parte hearings will resume on May 18. Parties and counsel are required to appear remotely via Court Call for these hearings, unless, prior to the hearing, the court grants a request to appear in-person.
 - Court trials and related settlement conferences will resume in person unless all parties agree to conduct them remotely.
 - Civil Harassment Restraining Orders (including Workplace Violence Restraining Orders) will continue to be heard as scheduled, and will be conducted in person.
 - Orders for Examination will continue to be heard as scheduled, and will be conducted in person.
 - Claims of Exemption will continue to be heard as scheduled. The parties may appear remotely via Court Call if they choose to do so.
 - Minor's Compromises will continue to be heard as scheduled. The parties may appear remotely via Court Call if they choose to do so.
 - Civil jury trials scheduled through August 18, 2020, will be vacated and set for a Case Management Conference. Mandatory settlement conference dates associated with civil jury trials scheduled through August 18, 2020, will also be vacated.
 - The Court continues to work on a plan for conducting jury trials which complies with the COVID-19 orders issued by the Governor, Chief Justice and local authorities.

UNLAWFUL DETAINERS

- Only certain unlawful detainer matters will resume in Department 19 on May 18, as follows:
 - Law and motion hearings will resume as scheduled and personal appearance will be allowed
 - Status conference and Court's motions to dismiss will resume as scheduled and personal appearance will be allowed.
 - Trials: For ongoing matters, pursuant to Emergency Rule 1, effective April 6, 2020, all unlawful detainer trials must be set for trial no earlier than sixty (60) days after a request for trial is made. For matters which already had a scheduled trial date as of April 6, 2020, Emergency Rule 1(d) required the Court to continue the trial date for at least sixty (60) days. The Court is continuing those trials by minute order and will notify the parties of the new trial date by mail.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Small claims trials will resume in Department 19 on May 18, subject to the following changes and conditions:
 - The Court will stagger small claims trial starting times in thirty (30) minute intervals. Each case will be assigned a time slot, beginning with 8:30 a.m. A notice confirming the date and time slot assigned to the trial will be sent to each party by mail.
 - For business small claims/collections trials on Wednesdays, the Court will assign each business plaintiff a time slot beginning at 8:30 a.m. A notice confirming the date and time slot assigned to these trials will be sent to each party by mail.
 - Parties unable to attend trials for any reason, including COVID-19 health concerns, should file a request to postpone their trial on Judicial Council form SC-150 at least five (5) days prior to the trial.

JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY

- With the exception of contested hearings, all matters in both Juvenile Justice and Dependency cases will be heard via Microsoft Teams
 - If a party who has a legal right to be present cannot appear virtually, the court will make arrangements either for their in-person or telephonic appearance
- With the consent of all participants, the court will conduct contested hearings via TEAMS
- The Court will reschedule and provide notice for:
 - In-Person Contested Hearings (until further notice)

FAMILY

- Economic Hearings will be held as currently noticed
 - Attorneys and parties are encouraged to attend Court Call

- Child Custody Recommending Counseling hearings (Mediation) will resume on May 18 and mediation sessions conducted by conference call
 - Parties will be noticed with date/time, along with instructions regarding telephonic mediation session
- Case Management Conferences and Settlement Conferences will be continued indefinitely
- The Court will reschedule and provide notice for:
 - All trials and long cause hearings scheduled between May 18 and May 29

GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP (Including LPS)

- All short cause matters will be heard beginning May 18
 - Attorneys and parties shall meet and confer prior to court to expedite hearings
- Case Management Conferences and Settlement Conferences will be continued indefinitely
- Long cause matters will be continued indefinitely

DCSS

- DCSS calendar will resume telephonically May 18
 - DCSS will contact litigants prior to hearing date to confirm telephonic information

SELF-HELP CENTER

- Services will only be provided on-line and by phone Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Family Law & Civil cases:

self.help@stanct.org or (209) 548-6237

Small Claims & Landlord-Tenant Cases:

small.claimsadvisor@stanct.org or (209) 530-3178

JURY

- The Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court has temporarily suspended all jury trials until June 15.

The public is urged to monitor the Stanislaus County Superior Court website at www.stanct.org for updated information.