

COVID-19 CA LOCAL COURT ORDERS RE CLOSURE (UPDATED 4/23/20)

During this unprecedented period of COVID-19, we strive to provide our clients with the most accurate and up to date information regarding the status of court operations. To that end, below is a chart with the local court orders pertaining to civil matters in the majority of California jurisdictions where we have ongoing litigation. The information below should be read in conjunction with the [March 23, 2020](#) and [March 30, 2020](#) Statewide Orders of the Chief Justice, which suspend and continue all jury trials or a period of sixty (60) days from the date for which the trial was set, or from the date on which the statutory deadline to try the case expires, whichever is longer. **Please also see our updates regarding the Emergency Rules added to the California Rules of Court.**

CALIFORNIA STATE COURTS			
Court	Closure Information	Link	Updated
Alameda County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning April 20, 2020, it will resume a limited number of hearings in Civil, Family, and Probate matters. The hearings will be conducted remotely via telephone or video-conference and will be limited to emergency hearings and matters filed and scheduled before the March 17, 2020 Court closure. The Court will notify parties or their counsel in cases that are being set for hearing the week before the anticipated hearing date. All civil jury trials are continued in accord with the March 23, 2020 Statewide Order of the Chief Justice, for a period of 60 days. April 6 through May 1, 2020 are deemed holidays. The Superior Court announces the resumption of the Court's fax filing service—for certain enumerated emergency-related Civil, Family, and Probate documents, effective April 13, 	Click Here for More Information	4/16/2020

	2020.		
Contra Costa County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Contra Costa County Superior Court will be closed until at least April 28, 2020.• For purposes of computing time and filing papers, April 1-28 are deemed holidays.	Click Here for More Information	4/2/2020
Fresno County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From April 6 until May 1, 2020, inclusive, all courtrooms will remain closed for business, except for time-sensitive and essential functions.• April 6 to May 1, 2020, inclusive, are declared Court holidays for purposes of calculating time for filing papers.• Pursuant to the Chief Justice's order, the Court suspends and continues all jury trials for 60 days.	Click Here for More Information	4/6/2020
Kern County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All jury trials are suspended and continued for a period of 60 days. Courts may conduct such a trial at an earlier date, upon finding of good cause shown or through the use of remote technology, when appropriate.	Click Here for More Information	4/8/2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning March 19 through May 1st, the only civil case types that will be heard are harassment and ex parte requests. All other hearings will be rescheduled. The court will send notice to attorneys or parties who represent themselves.• All civil cases set for hearings in Departments 10, 11, 12 and 17, and in the Multi-Divisional Courts between the dates of April 1, 2020 and May 22, 2020, have been rescheduled to a later date.• Access to any and all courthouses is restricted to those persons required to appear in person for a court hearing.		
Los Angeles County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to any and all Los Angeles County Courthouses shall be restricted at all times to judges, commissioners, court staff and authorized persons until June 22, 2020. Full and complete public closure of the Beverly Hills, Catalina and Spring Street Courthouses.• All courtrooms will remain closed for judicial business through May 12, except time-sensitive, essential functions.• Suspension of any and all criminal or civil jury or non-jury trials until further notice. (Order is in effect until June 22, 2020). All Civil jury and non-jury trials scheduled between April 17 and May 12, 2020, will be continued to a date after June 22, 2020. Parties will be notified of the continued trial date. All pretrial dates for trials scheduled during this time period also are continued consistent with the new trial date.	Click Here for More Information	4/14/2020

<p>Monterey County Superior Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A limited number of civil hearings are currently being heard. All hearings will be conducted telephonically. Hearings that were scheduled between March 18 and through the shelter in place order will be continued between 3- and 60 days from the date of the original hearing. Notices will be mailed to parties. Ex parties will be conducted telephonically. • The court continues to process documents and filings electronically. • If all parties agree in writing, you may request that the Court rule on your filed noticed motion without a hearing on the Civil Law & Motion Calendars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday Department 13 at 9:05am; - Tuesday Department 13 (Complex) at 8:30am; - Thursday Department 13 (Ex Parte) at 10:00am; and - Friday Departments 14 & 15 at 9:00am. <p>Note: All interested parties will need to waive the hearing in writing. Click here for the Emergency Agreement to Waive Hearing Form.</p> 	<p>Click Here for More Information</p>	<p>4/20/2020</p>
<p>Napa County Superior Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to the public for anything other than time sensitive or emergency matters from Wednesday, March 18, through Friday May 1, 2020. • The Court is not currently processing civil filings. The Court has declared March 18, 2020 through May 1, 2020 a court holiday for purposes of computing the time for filing papers. • All civil jury and bench trials, TMCs and/or MSCs currently set between Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and Friday, May 1, 2020 will be vacated. 	<p>Click Here for More Information</p>	<p>4/22/2020</p>

- Vacated cases will be continued to a trial-setting conference eight weeks from the currently set TMC. Notice of the trial-setting conference will be provided by mail. Statutory deadlines for discovery and motions will be based on the new trial dates, except for deadlines that had already passed prior to March 18, 2020.
- Parties are strongly encouraged to meet and confer to agree upon a new trial date (and dates for TMC and/or MSC, as appropriate) and to submit a written stipulation and proposed order for the same when such filings are again being processed by the Court. Any such proposed order should include language to vacate the trial-setting conference. If the Court is unable to accommodate the agreed-upon trial date, it will decline to sign the proposed order and keep the trial-setting conference on calendar.
- All law and motion matters (including 8:30 probate matters, name change petitions and Case Management Conferences) scheduled between Monday, April 13, 2020 and Friday, May 1, 2020, will be continued to a new date eight weeks from the currently set hearing date. Notice of the new hearing date will be provided by mail.
- The Court is not currently processing ex parte applications other than for certain emergency matters.

<p>Orange County Superior Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Orange County Superior Court will remain closed to the public until April 24, 2020, with minimal exceptions for time sensitive matters or matters pertaining to the safety and security of the community. The date for re-opening the court is uncertain.• For purposes of computing certain court-related deadlines, the closure will be considered a public holiday.• The Court is available only for the following Civil matters:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Civil Temporary Restraining Orders- Emergency Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO)- Emergency Ex-parte Lock-out Matters (UD)- Emergency Civil Temporary Injunctions (CRC 3.1150)• The Court has suspended all civil trials, hearings, and proceedings for at least 60 days, with the exception of time-sensitive matters, such as restraining orders and urgent dependency, probate, and family matters. All other Civil hearing dates on any civil case set during the next 60 days (including court and jury trials in progress or calendared to begin during this timeframe) are deemed vacated and will be reset for a date beyond 60 days. Notice will be provided to all parties. Although hearings may continue to display as calendared in electronic online case access, no hearings will be conducted during this period. Judges are to consider whether an emergency order may be needed to address cases reaching 5-year deadlines under Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310.	<p>Click Here for More Information</p>	<p>3/27/2020</p>
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Riverside County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Riverside Superior Court announced temporary court closures throughout the county effective March 20 through May 1, 2020. During this time frame, only limited emergency matters will be handled. In addition, those courts that remain open will have reduced public service hours from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.• The Court will continue to accept ex parte civil harassments, other types of temporary civil restraining orders, and ex-parte applications.• Unlimited and limited civil trials are suspended until after May 25, 2020. Civil trials that are in-progress will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All other civil matters will be continued. ADR and Mediation Services will be suspended.• For purposes of computing time for filing papers with the Court under Code of Civil Procedure sections 12 and 12a, the time period from March 17, 2020 to May 1, 2020, inclusive are deemed holidays (Gov. Code, § 68115(a)(4)).	Click Here for More Information	4/23/2020
Sacramento County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Court has declared the period of March 20, 2020 to May 15, 2020, inclusive, to be court holidays for all purposes, except for certain limited and expressly enumerated emergency matters which may be addressed during such time frame. All courthouses and courtrooms shall be closed for judicial business during the days declared to be holidays except for Department 47 in the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse.• When the court returns to a partial closure, the court will set new dates for all affected cases, taking into consideration the order and any statutory priorities for the affected cases.	Click Here for More Information	4/16/2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All criminal and civil matters not expressly excepted are suspended until further order of the Court.		
San Bernardino County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The San Bernardino County Superior Court announces temporary court closures throughout the County effective March 17 through April 30, 2020.Effective March 17 through April 30, all Civil and Criminal Jury Trials will be rescheduled.DO NOT APPEAR unless you have an emergency matter scheduled for hearing. The Clerk's Office will provide notice to attorneys and parties regarding the continuance of each matter when the Court reopens.For the purposes of computing time for court related deadlines, the closure will be considered a court holiday.	Click Here for More Information	4/8/2020
San Diego County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">San Diego Superior Court to remain closed through April 30, 2020 and has suspended all non-emergency services.All non-emergency civil, family, juvenile, probate and out-of-custody criminal matters will be recalendared and notice will be sent in the mail for later dates. All court days during the closure period will be deemed a court holiday for purposes of computing the time for filing papers.All jury trials in the County of San Diego are suspended and continued for a period of sixty (60) days in accordance with the Chief Justices order.	Click Here for More Information	4/22/2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Court has continued all non-emergency matters. The parties shall receive further notice stating the specific time and date of the continuances in their cases.		
San Francisco County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From April 16 to June 1, 2020, inclusive, are deemed a holiday for purposes of computing time for filing papers with the Court. This includes filing responsive pleadings and time to respond and compel discovery.• The trial dates for all cases on the civil calendar with trial dates from April 16-June 1, 2020 are vacated. The court will set a new trial date for each case, which will be 60 days from the vacated trial date. For these cases (except where the discovery cutoff has passed) the last dates to conduct discovery and file MSJ/As are hereby vacated, and will be based on the new trial date. All MSC dates in these cases are vacated and will be reset when the court resumes normal operations.• The hearing dates for all law and motion and discovery matters currently calendared in departments 301 and 302 are hereby vacated. When the court resumes normal operations, the Presiding Judge will announce procedures for setting hearing dates for those cases which have been fully briefed. For cases in which motions have been filed, but are not yet fully briefed, the new hearing date will establish the briefing schedule.• Parties with emergencies which require court orders may submit ex parte applications in compliance with CRC 3.1200-3.1207 and attach them to an email to the opposing party/ counsel addressed to contestdept302tr@sftc.org with the subject line, "Ex Parte Application for Emergency Relief." The court will review the applications and-where appropriate-notify	Click Here for More Information	4/13/2020

the parties to appear for a telephonic hearing.

SF Complex Matters

- The hearing dates for all law and motion matters currently calendared in the complex litigation departments 304 and 613 are hereby vacated. When the court resumes normal operations, the Complex Department Judge will announce procedures for setting hearing dates for those cases which have been fully briefed. For cases in which motions have been filed, but are not yet fully briefed, the new hearing date will establish the briefing schedule.
- Parties with emergencies which require court orders may submit ex parte pleadings as attachments to an email to the opposing party/counsel addressed to the appropriate complex department: Department613 ComplexLit@sftc.org or Department304@sftc.org. The court will act on the applications and-where appropriate-issue a briefing and schedule for a telephonic hearing using Com1 Call. Due to the unavailability of court staff, parties and counsel are hereby relieved of the requirement to file the applications before submission. Where briefing or a hearing is ordered or an order granting relief issues, parties/counsel will be authorized to file the pleadings and briefs.

Real Property Matters

- All actions in unlawful detainer cases, including trials, motions, discovery, and ex parte applications, with the exception of unlawful detainer cases resulting from violence, threats of violence, or health and safety issues, are stayed until June 19, 2020. Parties in all matters that are not stayed may appear by telephone. Telephone appearances must be arranged through Court Call by calling 1-888-88-COURT. All unlawful detainer filings will continue to be processed as they are submitted for filing.
- The period from April 6, 2020 through June 19, 2020 is deemed a holiday for purposes of computing time under Code of Civil Procedure section 1167, with the exception of unlawful detainer cases resulting from violence, threats of violence, or health and safety issues in which the court finds in its discretion and on the record that the action is necessary to protect public health and safety. In all pending actions this determination shall be based on evidence submitted by the parties. Plaintiff shall submit such evidence at least 24 hours prior to the hearing/trial call or appear ex parte. Defendant may submit evidence in advance of the hearing/trial call or appear ex parte or at the hearing.
- The hearing dates for all law and motion matters in unlawful detainer cases will be continued by the court to a date after June 19, 2020 on a rolling basis except for cases in which a determination is made in accordance with the procedure outlined above. Motions in the cases in which the court makes the above-described finding will be heard in accordance with applicable provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.
- The dates to conduct discovery in all unlawful detainer cases remain in accordance with the original trial date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trials and Mandatory Settlement Conferences set in unlawful detainer cases as of April 6, 2020 will be continued for at least 60 days on a rolling basis, with the exception of unlawful detainer cases resulting from violence, threats of violence, or health and safety issues in which the Court finds in its discretion and on the record that the action is necessary to protect public health and safety.• No summons will be issued on a complaint for unlawful detainer unless the court finds, in its discretion and on the record, that the action is necessary to protect public health and safety. Such determination may be requested by an ex parte application. No defaults or default judgments will be entered by the Clerk of the Court unless a determination is made that the action is necessary to protect public health and safety and the defendant has "not appeared-in the action within the time-provided by law, including by any applicable executive order. Such determination may be requested by an ex parte application.		
Santa Barbara County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Santa Barbara Superior Court has suspended all non-emergency services effective March 17, 2020 – April 23, 2020. In an effort to protect the public and court staff, matters previously scheduled between March 17 and April 23, 2020 will not proceed. This is subject to extension. Civil, including Unlawful Detainer proceedings, will be rescheduled and notices sent to the parties at the address the Court has on file.• For purposes of computing time for filing papers with the Court under CCP sections 12 and 12a, any dates from March 17, 2020 to and including April 23, 2020, are deemed holidays.	Click Here for More Information	4/13/2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Court will reschedule all hearing dates for civil, family, and probate matters scheduled between March 17, 2020, and April 23, 2020.• The clerk's office will continue to accept electronic filings. All attorneys are required to E-file.		
Ventura County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of April 15, 2020 through May 12, 2020, inclusive, all Ventura Superior Court courtrooms and clerk's offices will continue to remain closed, except for essential emergency matters and time-sensitive, essential functions.• For the purposes of computing time for filing papers, March 19-May 12, 2020 are deemed holidays.• All Civil Long Cause Jury & Non-Jury Trials, Civil Law & Motion hearings, Short Cause Matters and Trials, Trials De Novo and courtroom 22b matters are suspended for 90 days.	Click Here for More Information	4/15/2020

CALIFORNIA FEDERAL COURTS

Court	Closure Information	Link	Updated
Central District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United States District Court for the Central District of California has activated its Continuity of Operations Plan ("COOP"), effective March 23, 2020 through and including June 1, 2020. All of the Courthouses of the Central District of California will be closed to the public except for hearings on criminal duty matters, as indicated. In civil cases, no hearings will go forward except for emergency time-sensitive matters, such as requests for temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions, as ordered by the assigned judicial officer. Any hearings on emergency civil matters will proceed telephonically only. Effective immediately, the Court will not call in jurors for service in civil or criminal jury trials until after June 1, 2020 or otherwise ordered by the Court. The court's CM/ECF system is available 24/7 for electronic filing of documents. Filing deadlines will remain in place unless otherwise ordered by the presiding Judge per GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-02. 	Click Here for More Information	4/13/2020
Southern District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All jury trials in civil and criminal cases in the Southern District of California are continued until May 16, 2020. New trial or status dates will be set in individual cases on or before May 16, 2020, unless this emergency suspension of trials is extended. In civil cases, the personal appearance of counsel, parties, witnesses, or other non-court personnel at proceedings, hearings, or conferences is excused, unless they are ordered to appear in person by a judicial 	Click Here for More Information	4/15/2020

	<p>officer after March 23, 2020. With the exception of jury trials, judges will retain discretion to schedule and hold proceedings, hearings, and conferences telephonically or by video conferencing, as permitted by law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In civil cases, documents are not to be filed in person at the courthouse as permitted by Civil L.R. 77 .1. Counsel and parties should not come to the courthouse or send others to the courthouse to file or submit documents that can be mailed or filed electronically. The requirement of Civil L.R. 5.4 requiring courtesy copies of filings longer than 20 pages is suspended as to civil cases until May 16, 2020 unless extended by the Court. 		
Eastern District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective immediately through June 1, 2020, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California shall be closed to the public. The court will not call in jurors for service in civil or criminal jury trials until June 15, 2020. All civil and criminal jury trials in the Eastern District of California scheduled to begin during this time period are continued pending further order of the court. The court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate. All of the court's civil matters will be decided on the papers, or if the assigned Judge believes a hearing is necessary, the hearing will be by telephone or videoconference. This applies to all matters including motion hearings, case management conferences, pretrial conferences and settlement conferences. 	Click Here for More Information	4/17/2020
Northern District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 26, 2020, the court ordered that all essential court proceedings were consolidated and relocated to the San Francisco Courthouse at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, until April 7, 2020. This period has been extended until May 1, 2020, and may be extended by further order. 	Click Here for More Information	4/20/2020

- No criminal or civil jury trials will be commenced before May 1, 2020. Any trial dates currently scheduled are vacated.
- All civil matters will be decided on the papers, or if the assigned judge believes a hearing is necessary, the hearing will be by telephone or videoconference.
- The requirement under Civil Local Rule 5-1 that a courtesy copy of any filing be provided to the assigned judge's chambers is suspended pending further notice.

RELEVANT NON-CALIFORNIA COURTS

Court	Closure Information	Link	Updated
Superior Court of Washington, King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All civil trials currently scheduled in King County Superior Court between March 16, 2020 and June 8, 2020 are stricken and will be re-set to a date on or after June 8, 2020. The parties may submit an agreed order for a new trial date to their IC Judge. If the parties cannot agree, either party may file a motion or request a status conference with that Judge after April 24, 2020. • All non-emergency civil matters shall be continued until after April 24, 2020, except those motions, actions on agreed orders, conferences or other proceedings that can appropriately be conducted by telephone, video or other means that does not require in-person attendance. 	Click Here for More Information	4/22/2020

- All current non-emergency motions will be Denied without Prejudice, and may be re-noted to a date after April 24, 2020. (This includes all summary Judgments and motions without oral argument.) All motions arguing that matters are an emergency are to be noted without oral argument. Non-emergency matters should not be submitted in the Ex Parte queue.
- When the court is able to resume the processing of non-emergency motions, oral argument will be by telephone or video-conference only, unless in the rare event the assigned judge requests in-person oral argument. Until further notice, in-person court appearances for all civil cases will not be permitted without prior written permission from the assigned judicial officer.

If we can be of assistance and to discuss various options and specific situations, please feel free to contact the Buchalter attorneys below.



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