



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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**PRESS
RELEASE**

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MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT UPDATES RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND ADDS NEW MEANS FOR ACCESSING INFORMATION DURING COURT CLOSURE

On March 17, 2020, Monterey County Superior Court announced a court closure in response to the COVID-19 emergency and in alignment with the California and Monterey County “shelter in place” orders. The Court is currently closed to non-essential walk-in business from March 18 through April 3, 2020.

On March 23, California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye issued an order suspending jury trials statewide for 60 days. Pursuant to that order, this Court will suspend jury trials through May 22, 2020 and will not summon jurors to appear during that time. The only exception will be for jury trials whose urgency or importance justifies the need to proceed when weighed against the Court’s compelling public health and safety priorities during this time.

Also, until further notice the Court will allow only persons with court hearings to enter the Salinas or Juvenile courthouses on the day of their hearing. Parties, witnesses subpoenaed to testify, and their attorneys may enter the courthouse on the day of their hearings; all visitors and observers will be directed to remain outside of the courthouse. No other persons will be permitted entry without good cause.

During this emergency, the Court has created a vehicle for real time information for court users in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQ’s). For FAQ’s and updates on each case type, visit the [Court’s home page](#). The home page also includes a link to all court orders, both state and local, impacting court services and operations. This information is updated regularly and the public is encouraged to look frequently to locate current information.

Presiding Judge Julie R. Culver said, “The Court is seeking to align with shelter in place orders to promote the safety and well-being of the public, courtroom staff, sheriff’s deputies, judicial officers, and those who have essential business at the courthouse. Most hearings have been continued to promote the safety of our community. If you do not have a hearing taking place at the court please do not come to the courthouse during this time. We realize that our court users need accurate, current information about court services and cases. Our website will be updated regularly to provide this current information.”

Attached is the Interim Order modifying Court Operations and Services. The Court will continue to monitor and update the FAQ’s and other website information as this emergency evolves.

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