



Superior Court of California County of Orange ***News Release***

Public Information Office
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UPDATE – Friday, March 20, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.

COURT CLOSURE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Santa Ana, CA – Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, the Orange County Superior Court will be closed to the public, including attorneys, until further notice. The Court anticipates reopening in the near future for limited matters.

The closures are in response to the health concerns raised by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Orange County Superior Court. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 68115, at the Court's request California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye has issued an emergency order permitting the closing the Court's facilities to the public, at least until March 30, 2020. For purposes of computing certain court-related deadlines, the closure will be considered a public holiday.

The closures are in response to the unique and continuing public safety challenge presented by the coronavirus. Public health orders now prohibit most public gatherings. (<http://www.ochealthinfo.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=114363>)

The Court appreciates the careful balance that must be maintained between the timely administration of justice and the protection of public health and safety.

Importantly, this closure is not in response to a specific notice of exposure at any Court facility or to any Court staff. Instead, it is in an abundance of caution to help limit the spread of the virus and the potential for future exposure. Employees are expected to report to work as directed. The Court recognizes and appreciates our employees' and justice partners' willingness to support operations, during this unprecedented emergency.

Jurors who have been summoned to appear during this time period are not required to appear for juror duty.

The Court will be providing additional details in the next hours and days, so please check the Court website – <https://www.occourts.org> - for updates.

We encourage the public to use the available online services on the Court's website <https://www.occourts.org/online-services/>

Such online services include:

- The payment of traffic tickets (<https://www.occourts.org/directory/traffic/payments-extensions.html>)
- Contact with Self-Help (<https://www.occourts.org/self-help/>)
- Accessing case information (<https://www.occourts.org/online-services/case-access/>)
- Accessing forms and information on eFiling documents with the Court (<https://www.occourts.org/online-services/efiling/>)
- Establishing online payment plans, (<https://cupportal.occourts.org/home>)
- and many others.

The public is encouraged to refer to the OC Healthcare Agency website for up-to-date information about COVID-19 symptoms:

http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel_coronavirus

More information will be released as it becomes available, please visit our Court News on the web to find updates.

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