



Superior Court of California County of Orange

Probate & Mental Health

UPDATE – Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Due to social distancing requirements, the public will have limited access to court buildings. Unless the court orders otherwise, appearances will be conducted via remote appearance as noted below.

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY BEFORE TRAVELING TO THE CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER.

1. Filings received by the court during closure

- For matters relating to Probate Conservatorships, LPS Conservatorships, Guardianships and Minor's Compromises, the processing of filings resumed effective April 27, 2020. For all other Probate matters, the processing of filings resumed on May 26, 2020.

2. Submission of filings

All Probate filings shall be submitted via eFiling through an approved eFiling Service Provider with the exception of filings by self-represented litigants.

Self-represented litigants may also submit filings to the court as follows:

- By email to ProbateSRL@occourts.org Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
- By drop-box located by the front entrance of the Central Justice Center. Party is to provide a phone number for court contact;
- By US Mail at 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701, Attn: Probate.
- Appointments for in-person counter services will not be available until further notice.
- Specific questions can be submitted via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.

If filing fees are due, payment shall be included at the time of submission. For email, the parties will be contacted by phone regarding payment.

3. Appearances:

Unless specifically ordered by the court, hearings for Probate and Mental Health matters will be heard via remote appearance.

Effective January 4, 2021, Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Orders hearings will also be heard via remote appearance, unless specifically ordered otherwise by the court.

Ex Parte Hearings

- Ex Partes will be decided on the pleading with no in person or remote appearance, unless court directs otherwise.

Remote appearances

- Appearances will be conducted by video, unless ordered otherwise by the court on a case-by-case basis.
- Further instructions regarding video appearances are available on the Court's website, Covid-19 button, Probate button. Click on the Remote Hearing Instructions link posted as shown below.

Remote Hearing Instructions

CLICK HERE TO APPEAR FOR PROBATE HEARINGS

- If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.
- The public may also view court proceedings through the appearance link noted above.

4. Notice in Probate Cases

- If notice was previously published for a hearing date during the court's closure, the petitioning party will be required to re-publish notice and file a proof of new publication for a hearing that is not during the court's closure. If you believe that new publication should not be required, you may file an affidavit of good faith and substantial compliance pursuant to Probate Code section 8122 prior to your hearing. The sufficiency of the affidavit will be decided by the judicial officer assigned to your matter.
- If timely service was given for a hearing on a petition that did not occur due to the closure, parties will be required to provide new notice of the rescheduled hearing date in the same manner that the original notice was given.
- All notices must include language about appearing remotely. The following information must be included with the notice:

(1) You must attend the hearing by video remote using the court's designated video platform (2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.

5. Conservatorship Orientation Program

- Due to social distancing requirements, the Conservatorship Orientation Program will not be available until further notice. Filing proof of compliance regarding attendance is extended to the first review hearing.

6. Electronic submission of letters and bonds

- Until further notice, electronic submission of letters of guardianship and conservatorships will be allowed and require a signature (digital or otherwise). Letters with blank signatures will not be accepted for processing.
- Until further notice, electronic submission of bonds will be allowed. The submitting party must retain possession of the original bond and make it available to the court upon request.

7. Signed orders

- At the time an order is signed/processed, a copy will be returned to the submitting party via eFiling or by mail.
- To purchase a copy of a signed order, email your request to: cjcrecordsmanagement@occourts.org
- Specific questions about your signed order can be submitted via the "Ask a Question" button on the court's website.

For more information regarding resuming the processing of filings, and the outline of hearings rescheduled, refer to Probate's Fourth Amended Administrative Order No. 2020/07.