



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

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Court Reopens Traffic Court Operations

Santa Ana, CA – The Orange County Superior Court will continue its reopening of Traffic case hearings as part of its on-going effort to restore services to the public, which were interrupted by the pandemic in March. The reopening process began on Aug. 10, 2020 and is being completed in three phases.

Phase 1 – Remote Traffic Hearings

On August 10, 2020, the Court piloted remote traffic hearings at the Central Justice Center for a two-week period. On September 14, 2020, the Court will begin to hear Traffic matters remotely at all justice centers. This effort is part of the Court’s **“Safe Access to Justice”** initiative, which is designed to keep the Court and the community safe during this unprecedented pandemic.

Members of the public who had previously scheduled in-person hearings will be notified that their hearing has been rescheduled and will be held remotely via the [WebEx application](#). They will be provided with instructions for their hearing or for handling their citation online by using the [My Court Portal](#) application, if they no longer wish to appear before a Judge or Commissioner. For those members of the public that may not have access to a personal device, the Court will provide access to a computer at the South County Service Center or the Orange County Law Library. All remote hearings will be livestreamed and available for viewing on the Court’s Public Website. **More information about the Remote Traffic Hearings can be found online [here](#).**

Phase 2 – Pending Traffic Matters Not on Calendar

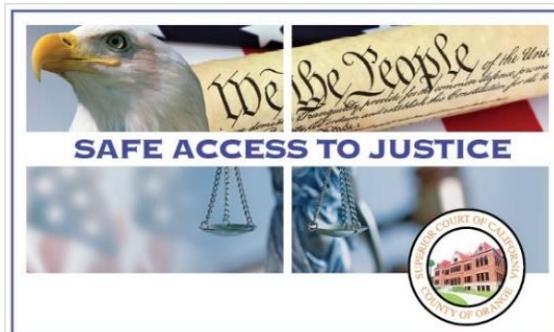
On August 20, 2020, all pending traffic citations were granted a final 30-day extension. Defendants will receive a notice in the mail advising them of their new extension date along with options for handling their citation. Pending cases include the following:

- Open Cases
- Payment Due Dates
- Traffic School Completion
- Community Service
- Cal Trans
- Other Programs

Phase 3 – Reopening of Online Reserve A Court Date

On September 1, 2020, the online Traffic hearing reservation system ([Reserve a Court Date- RACD](#)) was reopened and available to the public to schedule a Court hearing. Defendants can now make a reservation for a Remote Traffic Hearing. In-person hearings will only be granted after a written request is submitted to and approved by the Judge or Commissioner hearing their case. Defendants may also submit such a request during their Remote Traffic Hearing.

The Court is continually working on providing **Safe Access to Justice** and would like to remind everyone that the use of facemasks or face coverings is mandatory for anyone entering a courthouse. Exemptions issued by anyone other than the Court will not be honored.



For Court ADA accommodations and exclusions, please email Adainformation@occourts.org or visit this web page <http://www.occourts.org/directory/ada/>. Social distancing rules will also be strictly enforced in all facilities; thus, the number of individuals entering public courtrooms and elevators will be subject to space limitations. Persons displaying possible coronavirus symptoms will not be allowed in Court facilities.

The Court recommends all persons consult the Court's coronavirus website (<https://www.occourts.org/mediarelations/CoronaVirusUpdate.html>) for more details and the most up-to-date information regarding their case type.

The public is encouraged to visit the OC Health Care Agency website for up-to-date information about COVID-19 symptoms:
http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel_coronavirus

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