## Superior Court of California County of Orange



## News Release

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Mar. 29, 2019

## Court Expands Civil/Small Claims and Self-Help Services in West Justice Center

Westminster, CA – Orange County Superior Court will restore Civil/Small Claims services as well as a Self-Help Center at the West Justice Center, effective Tuesday, April 2, 2019, fulfilling the court's core mission to provide access to justice and effectively serve the public in all jurisdictions of the county.

The restoration of the Civil/Small Claims services in West Justice Center reverses the October 2012 closure, which was imposed on the court by the financial constraints brought on by the California state fiscal crisis, as well as the repeated decreases in state court funding.

The West Justice Center will now have filing windows and a courtroom for Civil/Small Claims cases. These Civil filing windows will be accepting filings for small claims, unlawful detainer, and civil harassment matters starting April 2. The new courtroom will hold hearings for the aforementioned types of filings that originate out of Costa Mesa, Cypress, Los Alamitos, Stanton, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, Westminster, and Garden Grove.

<u>Cases from these cities already calendared for hearing at other justice centers will be heard where they are currently scheduled.</u>

The restored West Justice Center Self-Help Center will provide legal information and procedural assistance to self-represented litigants who want to start or respond to a family law, civil, or probate case. The Self-Help center will provide free court forms, public computers to prepare court documents, and document review before filing.

Services will be provided on a first-come, first-serve walk in basis. Workshops will also be offered to provide general information about the legal process and assistance in preparing case documents in a group setting for various legal procedures.

The center will be staffed with Vietnamese and Spanish bilingual staff and will be open Monday-Thursday 8:00am to 4:00pm and Friday 8:00am to 3:00pm, except for court holidays. West Justice Center is located at 8141 13th Street, Westminster, CA 92683-4593.