

Orange County Superior Court  
CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC PLANS DURING CLOSURE  
March 17, 2020 – March 27, 2020

***March 17th and 18th 2020:***

Court is closed.

**Effective March 19, 2020, the Court will open in a limited capacity addressing essential hearings as follows:**

1. CJ1 will resume operations in compliance with all existing guidelines.
2. All misdemeanor public defender pre-trials, set on March 20, 2020 only, in which counsel has obtained 977a authority and in which there is no future hearing date set, will occur in their assigned courts.
3. A limited number of criminal courtrooms will open at the Central Justice Center. One Criminal/Traffic courtroom will be designated for each respective justice center to handle essential hearings and functions including but not limited to arraignments. Appropriate signage and personnel will be provided for direction to the assigned courtroom. Essential hearings include the following matters that are currently on calendar for March 19 -27:
  - a. Misdemeanor hearings with no future date
  - b. Felony hearings with no future date
  - c. Criminal preliminary hearings
  - d. Bail Reviews pursuant to PC 1275, and other urgent bail bond issues
  - e. Criminal sentencing proceedings
  - f. Criminal Jury Trials
  - g. Criminal Protective Orders
  - h. Petitions for Writ Seeking Emergency Relief
  - i. Out of custody Duty matters pursuant to existing guidelines
  - j. Emergency requests by counsel

The court is strongly encouraging the use of 977 authority, where permissible, and is facilitating video and/or telephonic appearances in these unprecedented times. The court believes this will allow us to comply with COVID-19 safety precautions and prevent the spread of the virus within our community while addressing emergency and essential matters.

Attorneys may make an emergency request to place a matter on calendar in order to facilitate a guilty plea, as long as all Tahl forms are completed, signed by the defendant and the District Attorney has complied with Marcy's Law.

All requests to place an essential matter on calendar must be submitted to the respective justice center's fax number.

Justice Center	Department	Fax Number
Central Justice Center	Dept. C55	(714) 647-4821
Harbor Justice Center	Dept. C60	(714) 647-4819
North Justice Center	Dept. C58	(714) 647-4823
West Justice Center	Dept. C57	(714) 647-4847
Department C5		(714) 647-4848

**Note:** Fax numbers will be operational March 19, 2020.