



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA
Public Information Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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URGENT RELEASE: COURT CLOSURE

THIS NOTICE SUPERSEDES ALL OTHERS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED

The Court is **closed to the public** until at least April 28, 2020.

- **Restraining Orders.** The Court will accept applications for domestic violence, civil harassment, and gun violence restraining orders beginning **April 6, 2020**. The process will be set forth in Emergency Local Rules.
- **Jury Service.** Jurors who were participating in an active matter that the time of the Court's initial closure on March 16, 2020, will be contacted by the department. All others who have jury duty during this period will have service postponed. Notice of the rescheduled date will be mailed to you.
- **Hearings.** The Court will not schedule hearings or reset hearings that were scheduled during the closure period until the Court reopens, with the exception of urgent matters described below and those to be set forth in Emergency Local Rules. **The Court will inform you of the rescheduled hearing date. Please do not call the Court asking for a date.**
- **Traffic matters.** Traffic matters will not be heard at this time. No Court penalties or fines will accrue during the closure. Please contact the Court upon reopening.
- **Unlawful Detainer matters.** No new unlawful detainer filings will be accepted. For those unlawful detainer matters involving violence, threats of violence, and/or health and safety issues, parties should seek a restraining order first, and then seek permission from the hearing judge to file an unlawful detainer action.

- **Ex Parte Applications.** Ex parte applications will only be accepted in urgent matters described below, or in accordance with specific Emergency Local Rules.

During the closure, the Court **will accept certain urgent filings** as follows:

- **Emergency Criminal and Juvenile Matters.** As of **March 30, 2020**, the Court is accepting filings for emergency criminal and juvenile matters only.
 - Criminal filings will be accepted via a drop box placed at the Main Street entrance of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse in Martinez.
 - Juvenile filings will be accepted via a drop box at the Walnut Creek Courthouse.
 - “Emergency matters” are specifically defined in the Emergency Local Rules – Criminal and Juvenile available on the Court’s website.
- **All other matters.** The Court will begin accepting certain filings for these matters on **April 6, 2020** which will be subject to Emergency Local Rules described below.
 - Civil and Probate filings will be accepted at a drop box placed at the Main Street entrance of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse in Martinez. Unlawful detainer matters that do not involve violence, threats of violence, or health and safety issues **may not be filed.**
 - Family filings only will be accepted via a drop box at the front of the Family Law building in Martinez.
- **Additional drop boxes available at branch courts.** Beginning **April 6, 2020**, drop boxes will also be made available at both the Pittsburg and Richmond branch courts **only** for filings in case types heard at those locations.
- **Acceptance of filings by mail/delivery.** The Court will accept approved filings, as defined by the case-type Emergency Local Rules, by mail or other delivery such as FedEx. Couriers will not have access to Court facilities, only to the drop boxes.

- **Rejection of Filings.** Any filing deposited in a drop box that does not meet the requirements above will not be filed.

Finally, the Court will adopt **Emergency Local Rules** which will govern filings and hearings of specific matters. The Court website and the online version of this press release will be updated with active links to all rules as soon as they are available.

- **[Emergency Local Rules – Criminal and Juvenile](#)**
- **[Emergency Local Rules – Civil](#)** (including civil harassment restraining orders)
- **[Emergency Local Rules – Probate](#)**
- **[Emergency Local Rules – Family](#)** (including domestic violence restraining orders and emergency protective orders)

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