



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

mediainfo@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
925-608-2607

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Matt J. Malone, Public Information Officer
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URGENT RELEASE: COURT CLOSURE

THIS NOTICE SUPERSEDES ALL OTHERS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED
PLEASE REVIEW COMPLETELY

THE COURT IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
THROUGH AT LEAST *MAY 27, 2020*

- **Emergency Local Rules.** The Court has issued Emergency Local Rules governing practice in the Criminal, Juvenile, Civil, Probate, and Family departments:

<http://www.cc-courts.org/local-rules/local-rules.aspx>

Please review these rules for practices and procedures in each case type during the closure.

- **Jury Service.** Jurors summoned for service during the closure period will have their service postponed. Notice of the rescheduled date will be mailed to you.
- **Hearings.**
 - Generally, the Court will not schedule hearings during the closure period or reset hearings that were scheduled during the closure period until the Court reopens. **Exceptions exist.** Urgent matters described below and those set forth in Emergency Local Rules will be heard. Please review the Emergency Local Rules for your case type. In some cases the Court may contact the parties to reschedule hearings in specific cases. (Do not call the Court asking to be scheduled.)

- In certain Civil and Probate cases, notice of continued hearings will only be provided online via the Court's Open Access system. **You may be required to review the website and provide notice to other parties of the new hearing dates.** Please review the Probate and Civil rules carefully.
- **Drop Box Filings.** Filings permitted by the Emergency Local Rules for each case type will be accepted at drop boxes at the following locations:
 - **Civil:** Main Street entrance of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse in Martinez. (Note: Unlawful detainer matters that do not involve violence, threats of violence, or health and safety issues may not be filed; please see "Unlawful Detainer Matters," below.)
 - **Criminal:** Main Street entrance of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse in Martinez.
 - **Family:** Main entrance of Family Law building in Martinez.
 - **Juvenile:** Main entrance of the Walnut Creek Courthouse.
 - **Probate:** Main Street entrance of the Wakefield Taylor Courthouse in Martinez.
 - **Pittsburg and Richmond courthouses:** Drop boxes are available **only** for filings in case types heard at those locations.

Drop boxes will be available from 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Any filing deposited in a drop box that does not meet the requirements of the Emergency Local Rules for the respective case type **will not be filed.**

- **Filing by Mail/Delivery.** The Court will accept approved filings, as provided by the Emergency Local Rules for each case type, by mail or other delivery such as FedEx. Couriers will not have access to Court facilities, only to the drop boxes.

- **Specific Matters**

- **Restraining Orders.** The Court continues to accept applications for domestic violence, civil harassment, and gun violence restraining orders.
 - For civil restraining orders, please review the Civil Emergency Local Rules.
 - For domestic violence restraining orders and emergency protective orders, please review the Family Emergency Local Rules.
- **Traffic.** The Court will begin to address traffic matters that do not require a court appearance. You will be contacted by the Court as to those matters. All other matters will be handled when the Court reopens. Please do not contact the Court about your traffic matter until after reopening. No Court penalties or fines will accrue during the closure.
- **Unlawful Detainer.** The Judicial Council's Emergency Rules of Court prohibit the Court from issuing a summons on any new unlawful detainer complaints, with limited exceptions for urgent public health and safety matters. For matters involving violence, threats of violence, and/or health and safety issues, parties should provide documents with the filing, such as a declaration under oath, relating facts supporting the urgency on those grounds.

- **Public Access**

- **Records.** All records offices remain closed. But the Court will accept records requests and requests for background checks by mail, subject to all legal confidentiality exceptions. Request forms may be downloaded from the appropriate Court Records webpage:
 - For Criminal matters and background checks: <http://www.cc-courts.org/criminal/records.aspx>
 - For any other matters: <http://www.cc-courts.org/civil/records.aspx>

- **Hearings.** The Court is in the process of making those hearings that would be open to the public under normal operations available either by conference call or Zoom link. Please review the Court website - www.cc-courts.org - for further details as this access becomes available.

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