



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

April 13, 2020

SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Why are the Courts still open if the Governor and County have issued stay at home orders?

Answer: The Court has vastly scaled back operations but is still open for what the Presiding Judge has deemed [‘essential and emergency’](#) proceedings.

Question: I read that access to the courthouses is restricted to authorized persons only. Who are those authorized persons?

Answer: Parties, attorneys and witnesses appearing for a hearing or ex-parte matter; one support person and/or children accompanying a restraining order petitioner; and credentialed news media are allowed in the courthouses.

Question: What is the Court doing to protect members of the public, attorneys and others who still must visit the Courthouse?

Answer: The Court has implemented the following measures:

- Directed court security to enforce social distancing in public spaces including courtrooms and lines inside and outside the courthouses;
- Provided hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes as recommended by public health agencies;
- Hired vendors to complete frequent deep cleanings; and
- Posted signs outside courthouses, courtrooms and clerk's offices, asking people to not enter courthouses or courtrooms if they are feeling sick.

Question: What is considered ‘essential and/or emergency?’

Answer: Essential and/or emergency proceedings, organized by litigation type, can be [found here](#).

If your case does not fall under these case categories, do not come to court. All other hearings have been continued and you will receive notice of your new hearing date. Check www.lacourt.org for updates.

Question: Which courthouses are currently closed?

Answer: The Beverly Hills, Bellflower, Catalina, East Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, and Spring Street Courthouses are currently closed. Other courthouses may also close as the Court continues to scale back in-person operations and switch to remote and telephonic appearances and solutions. Check www.lacourt.org for updates.

Question: Are clerk's offices still open?

Answer: No, clerk's offices are closed until further notice. Please see instructions below for filing or requesting copies of documents.

Question: If the clerk's offices are closed, how do I file documents?

Answer: Limited and Unlimited Civil (not Complex) and Probate cases and documents can be filed electronically (efiling). Please follow the instructions for [efiling on our website](#). Fax filing is available for some case types ([see the list here for case types and associated fax numbers.](#))

If you can't efile or fax file, the Court has established drop boxes at all courthouse entrances. If conformed copies of the filed documents are needed, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the filing. No cash will be accepted at the drop boxes, only credit cards and checks. The documents will be deemed filed same-day if received by 4:30 p.m. Court staff check the drop boxes frequently.

Unrepresented litigants who cannot efile or fax file their pleadings and attorneys who are required to submit paper copies of pleadings, are strongly encouraged to send them via U.S. Mail or commercial delivery. Courthouse addresses are available at <http://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>.

Question: How do I obtain copies of documents:

Answer: Most Civil, Family Law, and Probate documents are [available for purchase on the Court's website](#). Criminal, Juvenile and Adoption documents are not available online.

Click [here](#) to obtain copies from the website. If you cannot obtain copies from the website, please follow the drop box procedure above to submit a request for copies at the courthouse.

Question: I need a restraining order. How do I obtain one?

Answer: The Court is open for the filing of restraining orders. You can receive assistance filling out restraining order forms by calling (213) 830-0845 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Question: I was scheduled for jury duty. Should I come to Court?

Answer: No. Please be advised that jury service has been canceled for all jurors with a service week of April 6, 2020 through and including the service week of May 18, 2020.

Jurors scheduled for service during this time should not report for jury service and do not need to take further action including registering for jury service or checking reporting instructions.

If you have any questions, please call (213) 972-0970 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Check www.lacourt.org for updates.

Question: How can I find out if my case has been rescheduled?

Answer: Please contact your attorney, check the website or call the courthouse where your case is scheduled to be heard. You can find courthouse phone numbers [here](#). If your case has been continued, you will receive notice of a new hearing date in the mail.

For all cases except Juvenile and Adoptions, you may also use the 'Case Calendar' function on each litigation type's webpage to find the next scheduled hearing date. You will need your case number to locate your case. If you have a Juvenile case, please contact your attorney.

- i. [Civil Case Calendar search](#);
- ii. [Family Law Case Calendar search](#);
- iii. [Probate Case Calendar search](#);
- iv. [Criminal Case Calendar search](#).

Question: I read that LA County is releasing pre-trial defendants. Does that apply to everyone?

Answer: No, only defendants who the Los Angeles County's District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternative Public Defender, and Sheriff's Department have agreed upon are being released from pre-trial detention. People not subject to release per that agreement are still entitled to bail hearings, which have been prioritized as essential proceedings.

Question: What about my traffic ticket?

Answer: A 90-day grace period on all Traffic and Non-Traffic Infraction tickets, as well as a streamlined system for release of driver's license holds, was announced on Friday, April 10. [See the Press Release for further information](#).

Question: What about my Unlawful Detainer (eviction) case?

Answer: All Unlawful Detainer (eviction) trials are continued until further notice.

Question: What about my Family Law mediation appointment?

Answer: Family Court Services Specialists are not conducting mediation or evaluation services. Litigants will receive notice when their services are rescheduled.

Question: I read the Judicial Council took action on April 6th to approve new rules relating to the pandemic. What are those rules?

Answer: The Council the Judicial Council approved [11 temporary emergency rules](#), including setting bail statewide at \$0 for misdemeanors and lower-level felonies to "safely reduce jail populations" and staying eviction and foreclosure proceedings to protect Californians from losing their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit the [Judicial Council's website](#) for more information.

Please check the [Court's website](#) regularly for updates related to COVID-19 as changes are occurring frequently.

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