

**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF SOLANO COUNTY
ANNOUNCES UPDATED ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS**

UPDATED: April 7, 2020

The Solano County Superior Court is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and is in routine communication with the California Judicial Council and Solano County officials. The Court has modified operations to respond to the rapidly evolving circumstances and to continue to meet critical needs while promoting public safety.

Authority for Emergency Operations

On March 18, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer issued a shelter in place order effective through April 7, 2020. On March 30, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer extended the order to shelter in place to **April 30, 2020**. To promote the health and welfare of citizens, the order directs all individuals living in Solano County to shelter at their place of residence except to provide or receive certain essential services. The order further directs business and governmental agencies to cease non-essential activities and non-essential gatherings.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all individuals in the State of California to stay at home or their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors. Executive Order N-33-20 is in effect until further notice.

On March 17, 2020, the Chief Justice granted the Court's request for an Emergency Orders effective through April 5, 2020. On March 30, 2020, the order was extended to **May 1, 2020**.

On March 23 and 30, 2020, the Chief Justice issued statewide emergency orders. Provisions of these orders include the delegation of authority to trial courts to establish rules necessary to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to take effect immediately. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council adopted Emergency Rules related to Unlawful Detainers, Judicial Foreclosures, Remote Appearances, Emergency Bail Schedule, Personal Appearance Waivers in criminal cases, orders related to Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency, Temporary Restraining Orders and Protective Orders.

Reduction of Operations

Effective March 20, 2020, to focus on public safety, and ensure access to essential court services, the court reduced operations. **These orders are extended to May 1, 2020.**

Limited operations are restricted to processing and hearing essential matters that are required to comply with an individual's constitutional rights, to address exigent requests for emergency relief and/or to protect the health and safety of the public. These operations are as follows:

1. **Filings.** Filings in Fairfield and Vallejo courthouses will be accepted via the drop-box. The clerk's offices will not be open for in-person processing. All filings will be stamped received on the date received. Filings will be prioritized for processing by the clerk's office pursuant to the criteria and directions of the Presiding Judge and/or Supervising Judges from each division.
2. **Time-Waived Criminal Cases.** All time waived felony and misdemeanor arraignments, hearings, and court appearances in both the Vallejo and Fairfield courthouses, set between March 20, 2020, and May 1, 2020, are continued 8 weeks from their current date unless the parties are otherwise notified. (See MISC 6-2020 Standing Order re: COVID-10 Notification of Continued Criminal Cases.)
3. **No-Time-Waiver Criminal Cases.** All no time waived felony and misdemeanor hearings and court appearances in both the Vallejo and Fairfield courthouses, that are set between March 20, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will be heard in the Fairfield courthouse on the date presently set.
4. **Jury Trials.** By order of the Chief Justice, all jury trials are suspended 60 days. Jurors who have received summons should follow the reporting instructions for updates regarding your jury service or your continued date for jury service.
5. **Traffic and Infractions.** All non-traffic infraction and traffic infraction matters scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 1, 2020 will be continued. The court will provide notice of the continued hearing date.
6. **Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency.** All juvenile delinquency and dependency detentions, arraignments and other hearings will remain as scheduled unless the parties are notified not to appear or the parties have an approved stipulation or order for continuance.
7. **Emergency Relief, Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, Elder Abuse.** The Court will continue to process requests for Temporary Restraining Orders, including domestic violence, civil harassment and elder abuse orders, and requests for emergency relief in Civil and Probate matters. DVTRO, civil harassment and elder abuse restraining order hearings currently scheduled through April 10, 2020, will remain as scheduled unless case-specific arrangements are made with the department. Parties are encouraged to appear via Court Call or to contact the department to make alternative arrangements to avoid personally appearing. Hearings on temporary restraining orders scheduled after April 10, 2020, will be continued **with existing orders remaining in effect** as set forth in the notice of continued hearing mailed to the parties.

8. **Temporary Guardianships, Conservatorships and Probate Letters.** Letters establishing temporary guardianships and temporary conservatorships of the person and/or estate are extended 30 days. Letters establishing special powers in probate matters are extended 60 days. (See MISC 002721 Standing Order re: Probate, LPS and Guardianship Matters During Emergency Operations)
9. **Family Law.** All Family Law matters scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 1, 2020 will be postponed 60 days. The court will provide notice of the continued hearing date. The court will continue to process requests for emergency Family Law orders on an ex parte basis for emergencies as defined in California Rules of Court, rule 5.151. Defaults will not be processed during the period of emergency operations.
10. **DCSS.** All cases involving the Department of Child Support Services (“DCSS”) scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 1, 2020, will be postponed. DCSS will provide notice of the continued hearing date.
11. **Self-Help Center.** The Self-Help Center is closed for public access until further notice. Requests for assistance may be made by email to flf@solano.courts.ca.gov. Additional self-help resources may be found on the California Judicial Council’s website at www.courts.ca.gov.
12. **Small Claims.** Small claims hearings scheduled between March 20 and May 1, 2020, are postponed. The court will notify the plaintiff and any served defendant for whom the court has received contact information of the continued hearing date. Hearings on new small claims filings will not be scheduled during the period of emergency operations. (See MISC 002719 Standing Order Postponing Small Claims Hearings and Trial Setting)
13. **Unlawful detainer.** Per Emergency Rule 1, the court will not issue a summons for an unlawful detainer complaint unless an advance emergency finding is made that it is necessary to protect health and safety. Unlawful detainer trials scheduled between March 20, 2020 and April 6, 2020, will be postponed 60 days. New trials will not be set during the period of emergency operations. Defaults and writs of possession will not be processed during the period of emergency operations. (See MISC 002718 Standing Order Regarding Unlawful Detainer Trials and Processing of Defaults and Writs of Possession During Emergency Operations.)
14. **Civil.** With the exception of emergency matters, civil matters scheduled between March 20, 2020 and May 1, 2020 will be postponed. The court will provide notice of the continued hearing date or case management orders. Defaults in civil matters will not be processed during the period of emergency operations. Any civil case which required publication of notice by newspaper will remain on calendar provided

the court has proof of publication or as otherwise notified by the department. (See MISC 002720 Standing Order Regarding Civil Matters During Emergency Operations.)

15. **Probate.** Parties should continue to review pre-grant rulings. During the period of emergency operations, probate hearings will be continued to a date set forth in the pre-grant or as otherwise noticed. Any probate case which required publication of notice by newspaper will remain on calendar only for publication purposes unless otherwise notified by the department or in the pre-grant. The court will continue to process exigent requests for emergency probate orders on an ex parte basis if good cause exists. (See MISC 002721 Standing Order Regarding Probate Matters During Emergency Operations.)

Designated Courtrooms. Due to court closures, personnel and facility needs, hearings may be reassigned to alternative courtrooms. Please consult the electronic bulletin boards and follow any posted notices.

If You Are Feeling Ill or Have Been Potentially Exposed to COVID-19 contact your attorney. If you are unrepresented contact the Court at 707-207-7473 or CourtHR@solano.courts.ca.gov. Be prepared to provide your name and case number.

The Court will continue to monitor the evolving situation and will update this notice as circumstances warrant. Any revised orders will be posted on the Court's website at www.solano.courts.ca.gov.

To ensure accurate notice of continued hearing dates, it is the responsibility of the parties and/or their attorneys to ensure that the court has current contact information including accurate mailing address and telephone. Updated contact information may be mailed to each division depending upon the type of case.