

**Questions & Answers for the Civil Court
during the State of Emergency declared by the Governor
regarding COVID-19**

Urgent Matters

Is the Court accepting ex parte motions? Yes. The judge assigned will review the petitions and any responses. If a hearing is necessary, the judge will either schedule a conference call with all the parties or set a remote hearing within the parameters of California Rule of Court, Emergency Rule 3.

Is the Court still processing petitions to resolve compromises of a disputed claims on pending actions or dispositions of proceeds of a judgment in favor of a minor or a disabled person pursuant to California Rule of Court 7.950 or 7.950.5? Yes, we will prioritize these actions.

How will the parties present urgent discovery motions? If the discovery matter is truly urgent, a request may be made for an order shortening time on an ex parte basis. The court will exercise its discretion to determine if the matter is truly an emergency. If the court grants the order shortening time, the motion will be given priority, but will not be set within any less than 30 days.

Active Cases

How is the Civil Court accepting filings? The court accepts filings by mail or through use of our drop-boxes. There is a drop-box at each court location. We also accept fax-filing online. For those who wish to utilize fax filing, directions are contained on our website under "Online Services."

When are briefs due when motions were set for hearing after the emergency orders were in effect? If the initial hearing was continued, the briefs are due from the original date the hearing was set.

How (or when) are pending motions being rescheduled? We are continuing these motions 30 days at a time. The court hopes to begin hearing law and motion matters sometime in June; however, with these uncertain times, hearings will be held in a manner designed to ensure the public health and safety of our staff, the litigants, the attorneys and the public by utilizing remote hearings as contemplated by California Rule of Court, Emergency Rule 3. Once the Governor lifts the state of emergency, there will likely be social distancing and other restrictions still in place.

Will the court be setting Case Management Conferences (CMCs) and Mandatory Settlement Conferences (MSCs)? The court will be scheduling Case Management Conferences via vCourt. The court will also be setting mandatory settlement conferences, likely by remote video hearings. The court anticipates beginning to schedule CMCs and MSCs sometime in June 2020.

How is the court handling trials which have already been set? The court will be vacating all civil trial dates set for 2020 because it is anticipated that there will be a large volume of criminal trials which will have statutory priority. The court will be setting CMCs to reschedule trials. Until the state of emergency has concluded and the court has reduced the backlog of priority criminal trials, civil trials will not go forward.

Will motions tied to trial dates remain as set, or will they be reset to coordinate with the new trial date? Motions tied to trial dates will be reset to coordinate with the new trial date