

## Santa Cruz Superior Court

Schedule for reopening:

June 1: Staff returns to court.

June 8: All criminal court rooms will reopen; Santa Cruz court clerks will resume normal hours; the law library is expected to reopen with limited 8AM-12PM in-person hours.

June 15: Civil court room and family court rooms will reopen; Watsonville court clerks will resume normal hours; the self-help center will resume normal hours.

Precautions that the courts will be taking due to COVID-19

--When entering court, all attorneys clients, witnesses, etc. will have to wear masks.

--Social distancing.

--Hand sanitizers in court.

--Court rooms cleaned twice per day.

--Lots of janitorial staff.

## Appearing in Court

--In civil court, the parties are encouraged to appear by court call.

--In criminal court, parties can appear by phone.

--In family court, Judge Marigonda is encouraging (but not requiring) remote participation.

--In juvenile justice court, Judge Guy is requiring that all parties, as well as families, only appear remotely. In-person hearings will be specially set only if necessary.

--The dependency court protocols are still being worked out.

## Trials

--Jury trials in the civil setting for 2020 would be "highly unlikely," unless there was an extraordinary need to convene a jury.

--Criminal jury trials will be only for time not waived cases.

--Judge Volkmann is creating a task force to plan out the logistics of how to conduct jury trials in the COVID-19 world. The concerns include: how to get people to respond to jury summons, jury assembly room logistics (the space can only fit 25 socially-distanced people), and only about 20 people can fit in the court room for jury selection. Judge Burdick mentioned working on developing a hardship questionnaire that could be submitted electronically and possibly "for cause responses" also being done remotely.

--For civil case hearings, any court reporter must be physically present in the court room (even if the attorneys and parties are appearing remotely).

#### Final Notes

Based on the governor's proposed budgets, there will be substantial cuts to the courts. The Santa Cruz County court system is anticipating and working to address those changes.