



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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SUPERIOR COURT  
OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF  
SANTA CRUZ  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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## Superior Court to Resume Further Court Service

Santa Cruz— Although the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County has continued to operate some courtrooms and services during the County’s shelter in place order, the Court plans to resume additional services starting Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. On that day, all criminal court calendars will resume although several courtrooms will remain dark until June 15<sup>th</sup> when the Court plans to fully resume operations. Watsonville Courthouse operations will resume on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

“We have taken all of the health and safety steps that are necessary to safely resume more of our operation next week,” said Court Executive Officer Alex Calvo. The steps taken by the Court to create a safe environment for court users include requiring face coverings for everyone coming to Court, including staff and judges; promoting social distancing throughout its buildings, installing hand sanitizer stations at entry and exit points; limiting the number of people in a courtroom at one time; staggering start times of court calendars; increasing the frequency of disinfecting and cleaning; and adjusting air conditioning systems to improve the movement and filtration of air.

Continuing to operate essential court service during the pandemic and the shelter in place order has been challenging. Still, the Court has successfully managed its way through the early days of the crisis, even holding some court outdoors for several weeks to promote social distancing and keep the Court from becoming a source of community spread. “We are extremely proud of

what we've accomplished throughout this crisis. We took great care to manage our way through a challenging time balancing the need to protect public health with the need to protect access to justice for members of our community," Calvo said. The Court has worked closely with county justice partners to determine the proper time to resume services. The Court's plan to resume court operations have been carefully designed to include the use of remote appearance technology for some court proceedings to reduce the number of people coming to Court. Plans are underway for remote appearances for some traffic hearings starting June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Court has also formed a task force of local justice partners to safely plan for the return of jurors later this summer.

Although many court services are resuming for the Santa Cruz Courthouse on Monday, with clerk's offices there returning to the standard 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, most services at the Watsonville location will remain limited until Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Self-Help Center (SHC) in Watsonville will also continue its limited services for emergency and time-sensitive matters only until June 15<sup>th</sup> when it will resume its regular hours. The Center will continue to answer questions by phone and email for now.

The County Law Library will also resume only limited in-person hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. starting Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Appointments are needed for the Law Library and those can be made either by phone or by email using a form posted to their website ([www.lawlibrary.org](http://www.lawlibrary.org)).

More information about the Courts safety precautions and office and phone hours are available on its website at [www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org). Individuals are strongly encouraged to check the website for information before coming to Court. Individuals who are sick or who have COVID-19 like symptoms shall avoid coming to Court and should advise their attorney about their condition.