



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
[WWW.SACCOURT.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SACCOURT.CA.GOV)

**Effective April 1, 2020**

Implementation of Court Closure Mitigation Plan for April 1, 2020 through April 16, 2020

**Family Law Proceedings**

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to pose an unprecedented health and safety threat to the public. Due to the increasing risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, all court operations shall be closed to the public as provided for in the General Order of the Presiding Judge, dated March 30, 2020. (<https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/docs/extension-court-closure-order-april-1-to-april-16-2020.pdf>) Pursuant to that Order, all courtrooms of the Sacramento Superior Court will be subject to the Emergency Relief Plan for judicial business commencing April 1, 2020 and continuing through April 16, 2020 except for certain time-sensitive, critical matters.

For Family Law, those critical proceedings include:

- Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Restraining Orders
- Emergency Family Law Applications (Ex Partes) – Monday through Friday, 8:30 am and 10:30am

These services provided will be with minimal support staff. All hearings will be telephonic. To avoid delay in processing your ex parte application, you must follow the procedural directives for notice, provision of telephone contact information for all parties, and submission of a proof of service as applicable.

**Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Restraining Orders**

- Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Restraining Orders can be filed via the court drop-box (located at the Family Court @ 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826) or by emailing to [Dept125@saccourt.ca.gov](mailto:Dept125@saccourt.ca.gov).
- The requesting party must provide a valid telephone contact number on their documents in order for staff to contact them regarding filing deficiencies and the status of their pending request. Applications received Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm, may result in a same day order, if all paperwork is successfully completed. Those filed after 2pm will likely be completed and ready the following business day.
- Once the court grants or denies the request, court staff will contact the filing party by phone to arrange pick-up accordingly at the drop-box. Certified copies as prescribed by law will be provided.
- Any future hearings set as a result of the application during the court closure period will only be set for telephonic return hearings and appearances may be subject to later change, as a result

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of additional efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Court Department will not accommodate personal attendance of attorneys or the public.

### **Emergency Family Law Applications (Ex Partes)**

- In the event of an emergency situation, the moving party may present an *ex parte* application for immediate relief upon proper notice to the opposing party via the court drop-box (located at the Family Court @ 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826) or by emailing to [Dept124@saccourt.ca.gov](mailto:Dept124@saccourt.ca.gov). Parties must submit their ex parte application via drop-box or email at least 24 hours in advance of their desired ex parte hearing, date and time. For example, if your ex parte is noticed for Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 8:30 am, you should have submitted your ex parte application to the court by Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 8:30 am.
- Ex parte applications can be considered at both **8:30 am, and 10:30 am**. Parties must provide notice to the other party for a specific timeslot, either for 8:30 am or 10:30 am.
- The moving party must not only provide the opposing party with the noticed date and time (Monday through Friday; 8:30 am or 10:30 am) of the ex parte application, but also a (hard or electronic) copy of the application. Both components shall be included in the completed proof of service which must be filed with the court via drop-box or email at least 24 hours in advance of the ex parte hearing date.
- A Responding party to a noticed ex parte hearing may submit a written response for consideration. The response shall be submitted by email to [Dept124@saccourt.ca.gov](mailto:Dept124@saccourt.ca.gov) by 8:30 am on the day of the ex parte hearing with a copy to the moving party.
- Additionally, the moving party must provide current telephone numbers for all parties, in the event the ex parte application requires a telephonic appearance and/or hearing to be scheduled. If a telephonic appearance is needed, the court will contact the parties and provide instructions. Once the Family Law Judicial Officer rules, based on the pleadings and/or after the telephonic ex parte appearance, a court representative will make the orders and documents available either by pick-up from the drop-box, electronically (if email address provided), or preferentially by posting the order via the Public Case Access System (PCAS).
- Parties are required to comply with any service requirements post the ex parte hearing and to submit to the court a proof of service prior the return hearing.
- Counsel and parties are reminded that ex parte relief may only be granted upon a showing of irreparable harm or immediate danger as set forth in Family Code Section 3064 and California Rules of Court Section 5.151(d).
- Any future hearings set as a result of an ex parte application during the court closure period will only be set for telephonic return hearings and appearances may be subject to later change.

### **Law & Motion Hearings**

- All Law & Motion Calendars will be suspended during the court closure period.
- Once the court reopens for partial or full services, Law & Motion hearings will be continued out to the first available hearing as calendars allow. Priority will be given to cases involving Custody, Visitation, and Termination of Parental Rights. All others will be continued out to the first available hearing date thereafter. Parties shall plan accordingly for telephone appearances, as efforts to stem the COVID-19 pandemic may still be in place or expanded.
- Please continue to check the Family and Children section of the Sacramento Superior Court Webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements.

### **Trials and Settlement Conferences**

- There will be no trial or settlement conference proceedings during the court closure.
- After the expiration of the court closure, all trials will be continued out to the first available date(s), but may still be subject to additional change, as a result of further contingencies to stem the CORVID-19 pandemic.
- Please continue to check the Family and Children section of the Sacramento Superior Court Webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements.

### **Department of Child Support Services Cases (D-132)**

- All Department of Child Support Services Calendars in D-132 will be suspended during the court closure period.
- Like the Court, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is also closed to the public. For additional information regarding DCSS, please see their website at <https://childsupport.ca.gov/covid-19-updates/>
- Once the court reopens for partial or full services, all impacted DCSS, trials, and Law & Motion proceedings will be continued and re-calendared, possibly as early as June 2020, but subject to change.
- Please continue to check the Family and Children section of the Sacramento Superior Court Webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements.

### **Domestic Violence Court (D-125)**

- All Domestic Violence Calendars and court hearings will be suspended during the court closure.
- During this period of court closure, our current process will allow us to adjudicate new Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) requests and Emergency Family law Ex parte Applications. These matters will have a confirmed continued hearing date, that we anticipate will at least proceed telephonically.
- Please continue to check the Family and Children section of the Sacramento Superior Court Webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements.

### **Court Filings**

- During the court closure, all filings can still be submitted to the Court via US Mail, but will not be processed until after the court closure.

### **Self Help Center**

- All services provided by the Self Help Center will be suspended during the court closure.

### **Family Court Services (FCS)**

- All mediations will be suspended during the court closure. Once the court reopens for partial or full services, all mediations will be re-calendared but subject to change.

The acceleration of the court closure did not afford sufficient time to continue all pending law and motion hearings in domestic violence and family law. We are aware of the hardship this creates for all parties. We will address this category of case as a priority once the full closure is lifted, and staff is available to reset these hearings. Please continue to check the Family and Children section of the

Sacramento Superior Court Webpage frequently at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements. Thank you for your patience during this time.

April 1, 2020