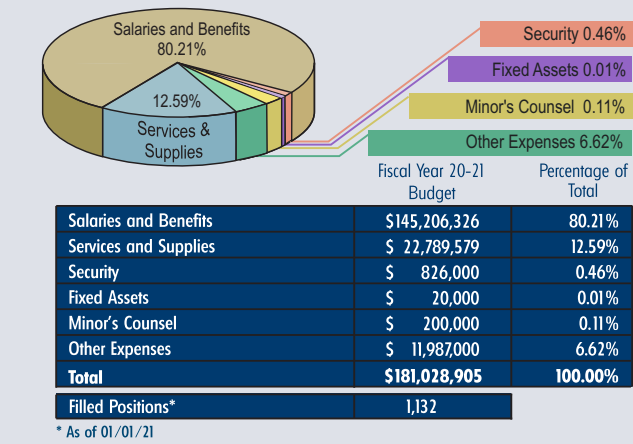


BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



**Salaries and Benefits** - Salaries and benefits of all court employees, except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

**Services and Supplies** - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

**Security** - In FY 11-12, as a result of Trial Court Security Realignment (AB 118), sheriff-related security costs for courtroom security and perimeter security were transferred to the County of San Diego. The remaining security costs in the court budget include such areas as after-hours security for facilities and security equipment maintenance.

**Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).

**Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.

**Other Expenses** - Includes payments of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 (Fiscal Year 2019/2020), total filings for all case types were nearly 390,000.

CASE TYPE	FY17/18	FY18/19	FY19/20
Infractions Traffic	245,715	233,611	188,901
Infractions Non-Traffic	88,751	92,215	75,653
Misdemeanor Traffic	14,087	12,207	9,475
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	28,808	26,814	21,485
Limited (without Unlawful Detainer)	20,693	25,835	22,058
Unlimited Civil	18,034	18,398	17,555
Felony	11,906	12,583	10,281
Small Claims	11,140	10,885	8,528
Unlawful Detainer	9,230	8,788	6,483
Family Law (Dissolution/Separation/Nullity)	12,342	12,045	9,862
Family Support	4,996	4,599	3,839
Domestic Violence	7,386	7,477	7,214
Juvenile Justice	1,621	1,410	1,372
Probate	2,977	3,071	2,726
Other Family Law	3,195	3,396	2,875
Juvenile Dependency	1,432	1,701	1,690
Total	482,313	475,035	389,997

- "Family Support" are filings where the Department of Child Support Services are a party to the case.

- "Domestic Violence" includes Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) filed in Family Court

- "Other Family Law" includes Paternity, Surrogacy, Child Support, Child Custody, and other miscellaneous Family Court petitions.



Welcome

*Welcome to the San Diego Superior Court – what a difference a year makes! Last year was consumed by changes throughout the Court, and our community, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We started 2020 optimistic that budget hurdles of the past had finally been cleared, but nearly everything came to a halt in mid-March. As public health departments and government leaders grappled with how to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Court closed for all but the most urgent services.*

*With this challenge has come great opportunity. During the Court’s six-week service limitation to the public, we worked diligently to transform the way we operate. In a court system that previously held very few remote proceedings, mainly limited to Civil cases, we have now logged countless virtual hearings across every case type. The move to virtual hearings came out of necessity to keep people safe and socially distant, but it can be an added convenience for court users – a traffic-ticketed tourist can now handle their hearing from the other side of the country, parents involved in a family law matter can now appear during a workday break, and attorneys juggling several cases can spend less time commuting to different courthouses.*

*As the theme of online access continued throughout 2020, we introduced a web-based reservation system for Civil Independent Calendar motions and allowed the use of additional e-Filing service providers. Community outreach efforts shifted to virtual tours and “Judges in the Classroom” presentations to inform distance-learning students about the Court and the justice system.*

*The effects of the difficulties first seen in 2020 will continue in 2021 as we keep our workforce and our court users safe from COVID-19. We have taken budget cuts head-on with both voluntary and mandatory furloughs, paired with employees on COVID-related leave and a hiring freeze. We are continually adjusting to our new way of doing business and look forward to making public access even easier as we renovate our website to be a mobile-friendly spot for people to go first for information.*

*Enclosed you’ll find a summary of our budget, recent case filings, a list of self-help services available to the public and details on the types of cases that can be filed at each of our seven locations. On behalf of our 135 judges, 19 commissioners and more than 1,100 employees, welcome to the San Diego Superior Court.*

*Lorna A. Alksne*

Hon. Lorna A. Alksne  
Presiding Judge (2020-2021)

Self-Help Services

In certain circumstances, self-help services are available to litigants who go to court without an attorney. These programs offer assistance by providing procedural information and education to litigants preparing for court. In some cases, this assistance may involve completing forms or offering ways to settle the case without appearing in court. Services/clinics are operated within court facilities and are offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the telephone numbers listed for further information, or visit the court’s Self-Help Center website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp).

**Child Support** - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator’s Office provides procedural and forms assistance with cases involving the Department of Child Support Services (governmental child support cases). For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, South and East County locations. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central	(877) 534-2524	North	(619) 235-5656
South	(877) 534-2524	East	(877) 534-2524

**Conservatorship Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance. For information, call: (877) 534-2524

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic\*** - San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, North and East County locations. Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides this assistance at the South County location.

Central	(619) 235-5656	North	(619) 235-5656
South	(877) 534-2524	East	(619) 235-5656

**Family Law Assistance** - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator’s Office provides procedural and forms assistance. For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

**Guardianship Clinic** - Guardianship Assistance Program provides orientation workshops and follow-up forms assistance. For information, call: (619) 844-2869

**Small Claims Legal Advisor** - San Diego Superior Court provides legal assistance to litigants on small claims procedures, forms and processes at the Central and North County locations. For information, call: (858) 634-1777  
Recorded Info: (858) 634-1900

**Small Claims Mediation\*** - National Conflict Resolution Center provides mediated settlement assistance at the Central location. For information, call: (619) 238-2400

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central	(877) 534-2524	North	(619) 235-5656
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*\*These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.*



SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2021  
Resource Guide

Mission Statement

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.

COURT SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction you live)
- Where the legal issue occurred (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction it happened)
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile justice matters are heard only in the Central Division)

Here are the locations of court facilities and the services each location provides:

CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION  
(619) 844-2700



**CENTRAL COURTHOUSE** (619) 844-2700  
1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101  
Jury Services  
Appeals – Limited and Unlimited Civil, Family, and Probate  
Appeals – Felony, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Criminal – Felonies and Misdemeanors  
Family Law – Dissolution (Divorce), Child Custody and Support, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law Facilitator  
Family Support Division  
Older Court Records - Records Research  
Probate - Guardianships, Conservatorships, Estates, Trusts, and Delayed Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage  
Court Reporting Services - Transcripts



**HALL OF JUSTICE** (619) 450-7275  
330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101  
Civil - Limited and Unlimited  
*(Including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Restraining Orders)*  
Small Claims



**KEARNY MESA FACILITY** (858) 634-1800  
8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123  
Traffic and other Infractions and  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



**JUVENILE COURT** (858) 634-1600  
2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123  
Adoptions and Emancipations  
Juvenile Justice  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offenses - Including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



**EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**(619) 456-4100**  
East County Regional Center:  
250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020



**NORTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**(760) 201-8600**  
North County Regional Center:  
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081



**SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**(619) 746-6200**  
South County Regional Center:  
500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution *(Divorce)*  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

Civil - Limited and Unlimited  
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution *(Divorce)*  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency *(Including Adoptions)*  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions - (760) 201-8500

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution *(Divorce)*  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

JURY SERVICE INFORMATION

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

**24/7 Access**  
The court’s Jury Services office maintains a telephone line to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service 24 hours a day, by calling 619-844-2800. A court staff member is available by phone from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Jurors may also access the court’s website to get more information concerning jury service and to request an excuse or postpone jury service at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury).

**One Day/One Trial**  
Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through Telephone Standby, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

**Free Transportation for Jurors Serving at the Central Courthouse**  
The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service for those serving at the Central Courthouse or the Hall of Justice. See the jury summons for more information. This service is for jurors serving at the Central courts only.

**Court Transfer**  
Prospective jurors can request a transfer of jury service to a more convenient Superior Court location within the county.

**Wireless Internet Access**  
Free Wireless Internet Service is provided for jurors serving at each court location.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach and education are essential to the San Diego Superior Court. By establishing and maintaining strong ties to the community and promoting knowledge about how our system of justice works, the court is better able to fulfill its mission of administering justice in a way that is both accessible and understandable to the public.

**Student Outreach and Education**  
Students in San Diego County have many unique opportunities to learn about the California justice system firsthand through activities that take place right in the courthouse. For a complete list and description of programs offered, please visit the court’s website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

**Volunteers**  
Volunteering at the court is a great way to learn about the justice system and gain invaluable experience for individuals seeking a legal career, as well as those interested in serving their community. Volunteer opportunities include: information desks, business offices, and children’s waiting rooms, just to name a few. Apply online at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

**Speakers**  
Want to learn more about the court? Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to discuss how the court operates and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system.

For additional information, please call (619) 844-2322; or visit the court’s website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

**SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE - [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)**  
Your time is important and we know it. To better serve you, the following online services are available on the San Diego Superior Court website:

- Find out about self-help services for people without lawyers.
- Schedule a Traffic Business Office appointment.
- Appear in a virtual hearing for various case types.
- Find links to audio livestreams for select virtual hearings.
- Pay your traffic ticket, sign up for traffic school, request an extension, or create a payment plan.
- Pay court-ordered fines or fees.
- Look up your Jury Service information or request an extension.
- Search for a Civil Case Mediator.
- Reserve a Civil Motion date for Independent Calendar departments
- E-filing on Family, Civil and Probate cases.
- Schedule an appointment for the Family Law Facilitators (FLF) workshops.
- Look up information on court cases using our Case Search lookup, Register of Actions, Court Calendar, Civil & Probate Law and Motion pages, or New Case Filings.
- Purchase court documents online through our Register of Actions feature.
- Find quick links to Child Support, DMV, Sheriff’s Warrant, and Restraining Order indices.
- See information to help you find court locations, and more.

If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most local libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library ([www.sdcpll.org](http://www.sdcpll.org)) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.

