Civil

Small Claims Cases

A small claims case is a limited civil case asking for $10,000 or less.

Small claims cases may be filed at the Hall of Justice, where the following services are available:
- The following filings are accepted at the counter:
  - Dismissals
  - Notice of Change of Address
  - Satisfaction of Judgment
- All other documents are to be time-stamped and dropped in the Drop Box
- Payment of Judgment to the Court
- Viewing of case files, including copies and certifications

All hearing dates in small claims cases that were scheduled during the Court's closure were vacated and are being re-scheduled by the Court. Parties will receive a notice from the Court with the date and time of the re-scheduled hearing, along with information regarding how to appear at the hearing.

Small claims hearings (motions and trials) that were scheduled during the Court's COVID-19 closure are being re-scheduled.

Hearings for small claims matters that were filed on and after May 26, 2020, will be scheduled for future dates.

Small claims hearings are being held remotely at this time.
Find more information about small claims virtual hearings at sdcourt.ca.gov/Civil.

The Small Claims Legal Advisory is preparing to expand its remote services to include live chat and video appointment offerings. In-person self-help services at court facilities will resume at a later date.

Self-Help Services for Small Claims cases

The Small Claims Legal Advisory offers remote assistance by phone and email during the pandemic. **You are encouraged to seek assistance from the Small Claims Legal Advisory before filing paperwork and/or visiting the courthouse.** Services are provided at no cost.

Small Claims Legal Advisory
- Speak to an attorney or paralegal who can explain procedures and assist you with preparing your forms.
- SCLA will transmit your completed forms to you by email
- 858-634-1777
  - Phone Hours: Monday – Friday
  - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
  - 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Help is available in English & Spanish