



Superior Court of California County of San Diego

CENTRAL COURTHOUSE
220 WEST BROADWAY
PO BOX 122724
SAN DIEGO CA 92112-2724

February 1, 2012

NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS

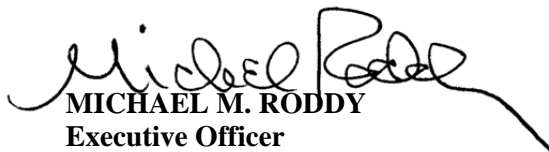
SARGENT SHRIVER CIVIL COUNSEL ACT PILOT PROJECTS

Pursuant to the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (Gov. Code § 68650 et seq.), the Judicial Council awarded funding to seven pilot projects throughout California to provide free legal representation and improved court services to low-income Californians on critical legal issues affecting basic human needs. The pilot projects are operated by legal services nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with their local superior courts. The Administrative Office of the Courts will conduct a study to demonstrate the effectiveness and continued need for each project.

The San Diego Superior Court, The Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc. (hereinafter "Legal Aid"), and San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (hereinafter "SDVLP") were selected to participate and develop programs relating to unlawful detainer and child custody cases in the Central Division of the San Diego Superior Court. Generally, Legal Aid will provide representation to eligible parties in unlawful detainer cases and SDVLP will provide limited scope representation to eligible parties in certain child custody cases. As part of the Shriver pilot program, parties in unlawful detainer cases may request a voluntary settlement conference or may be ordered to attend a mandatory settlement conference; and parties in certain child custody cases may stipulate or may be ordered into an accelerated program, which may include an early neutral evaluation, an early Family Court Services child custody recommending counseling session, and/or an early order to show cause (OSC) custody hearing.

To inform litigants of the pilot program, eligibility notices will be stapled to the front of appropriate court packets and placed in appropriate court locations and self-help clinics. These forms include the general eligibility requirements for the program and the phone number to call for more information and screening. The legal services partner(s) will screen litigants to determine if they are eligible for representation. After Shriver counsel is assigned to a case, participation in the unlawful detainer settlement conference program and accelerated child custody program will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

The Sargent Shriver Fact Sheet can be found here: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/AB-590.pdf>. For more information, contact the court's Shriver Grant Program Coordinator at erin.jensen@sdcourt.ca.gov.


MICHAEL M. RODDY
Executive Officer

Distributed for Publication