



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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Release: Immediately
Date: 01/13/10

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San Diego Superior Court Closed Two Days Next Week

The San Diego Superior Court will close all courtrooms and business offices on both **Monday, January 18, 2010** and **Wednesday, January 20, 2010**. The Monday closure is in observance of the statewide holiday commemorating Martin Luther King Jr., and the Wednesday closure marks the one-day-a-month closure for all state courts due to the ongoing statewide financial crisis and reduced state funding to the courts.

“We understand these closures will have an impact on the public we serve. We are working hard to get the word out that the court will be closed two days so people can plan accordingly,” says Mike Roddy, the court’s executive officer.

The Wednesday statewide court closures are authorized by recently enacted Government Code section 68106. Court closure days WILL NOT count as official court days for purposes of calculating statutory or filing deadlines. The Court will re-set hearings currently scheduled for these dates. As with all non-court days, judges will be on duty to handle emergency matters.

The public is urged to visit the Court’s website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov to handle traffic tickets or obtain court information. A recorded message regarding the court closure is available at (619) 450-7400.

Court facilities housing County operations such as the District Attorney’s Office, Probation and Child Support will be open for County business on Wednesday, January 20th, but all court operations will be closed.

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Attached is an FAQ sheet concerning the court closure including future court closure dates.

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Court Closure FAQs

The unprecedented closure of the State Courts one day a month has many people questioning how the closure impacts their court matters. Below are some of the most frequently-asked questions.

What dates will the courts be closed?

The San Diego Superior Court will be closed to public business on the third Wednesday of each month through June 2010. The specific closure dates are:

Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Wednesday, October 21, 2009
Wednesday, November 18, 2009
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Wednesday, March 17, 2010
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
Wednesday, June 16, 2010

How will the closure dates impact criminal and civil cases?

No matters will be scheduled on these dates. The court will reschedule previously scheduled matters to another date. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 68106, the closure dates will be treated as holidays for the purposes of scheduling hearings and calculating time for statutory and filing deadlines.

What if my traffic ticket says to appear on the closure date or I am set to appear on a minor offense on the closure date?

Traffic and minor offense matters set for appearance or further proceedings on a closure date will not be specifically re-calendared. Individuals are directed to come in to court or otherwise address matters before the scheduled appearance date to the extent possible or as soon thereafter as possible. In order to allow additional time for appearances to be made, the court will not take action for failures to appear on matters set for closure dates until 30 days after the scheduled appearance date.

Failure to appear within 30 days after the scheduled appearance date may result in a \$300 civil assessment penalty being added to the original bail and a referral to a collection agency pursuant to Penal Code § 1214.1, or issuance of a warrant for your arrest and/or suspension of your driver's license.

How will the closure impact traffic and minor offense COURT TRIALS?

If your traffic or minor offense court trial was set on a closure date, the court will reschedule the trial and notices will be sent to all affected parties.

What if my small claims case was set for a closure date?

The court will reschedule any matters previously scheduled on a closure date to another day and will notify the parties involved of the new hearing date. Small Claims matters will not be scheduled or heard on these dates.

How does the court closure impact my Juvenile Court hearing?

For any Juvenile Court hearings that are currently scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month starting on September 16, 2009, the court will notify the parties in writing of a new hearing date. If the parties do not receive a notice, they should contact their attorney.

How does the court closure impact my Family Court hearing?

For any Family Court hearings that are currently scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month starting on September 16, 2009, the court will notify the parties in writing of a new hearing date. If for some reason the parties do not receive a notice, they should contact their attorney.

How does the court closure impact my probate case or guardianship?

The court will reschedule matters previously scheduled on closure dates and notice will be sent to petitioner's counsel or self-represented petitioner(s).

Letters will be extended to the rescheduled date for continued review hearings, status reports or guardianships.

If your temporary guardianship letters expire on September 16, 2009, please visit the Guardianship Assistance Program on the fourth floor of the Madge Bradley building to have your temporary guardianship letters extended.

Telecourt for matters scheduled for hearing in PC-1 on the Thursday following the closure date will be held on the preceding Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Ex parte hearings that are available on Wednesdays in the North County Division are cancelled during the closure weeks.

What will happen with all other trials and ongoing proceedings because of the closure dates?

Any trial or other proceeding that is not completed on the Tuesday prior to a scheduled closure date will resume on the Thursday following the closure, unless the judicial officer handling the case instructs participants otherwise.

Do I still report for jury duty on a closure date?

Those jurors who had previously postponed their jury service to one of the closure dates will be rescheduled. The new reporting date will be adjacent to the closure date. A summons showing the new date will be mailed to jurors.

When exercising the option to report two weeks before or up to two weeks after a scheduled reporting date (Monday through Thursday only, at the Central, North, and East County Divisions), jurors are instructed not to report on the closure dates.