



Santa Clara County Superior Court Temporarily Closing Public Counters and Limiting Public Access To Courthouses

Due to the sharp rise of COVID-19 cases within Santa Clara County and the subsequent impact on the staffing levels at the Santa Clara County Superior Court, the Court will temporarily close public counters and limit public access inside the courthouses until January 31, 2022.

Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner issued [the Order of the Court](#) on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, which includes the following changes to courthouse protocols:

Courthouse access is limited to:

- Persons appearing in person for a court hearing. This will generally include and be limited to parties, their attorneys, witnesses subpoenaed to testify, jurors, and other persons who may be present in the courtroom.
- Persons appearing to submit a pleading in person for filing with the Court may enter only to place the pleading in the drop box and must leave afterward.
- Persons seeking assistance with the following will be permitted to enter the Family Justice Center Courthouse and will be permitted access to the Self-Help Center/Restraining Order Help Center:
 - Pleadings related to the prevention of domestic violence, gun violence, civil harassment, elder or dependent abuse, workplace violence, school violence, and juvenile dependency restraining orders;
 - Pleadings requesting emergency child custody and visitation orders or child safety issues;
 - Pleadings requesting emergency guardianships; and
 - Pleadings related to evictions, restricted to emergencies.

No other persons are permitted entry without good cause, including access to the Clerk's Offices and public restrooms. The Court will continue to process e-filing documents. People who are not e-filing will be allowed access to the courthouse to use the drop box, as noted in the order. Access is provided to court proceedings by phone or remote appearance, see [Courtroom Public Access](#).

"Our Court is experiencing a significant number of employee absences, creating staffing shortages across all departments of the Court. We are hopeful that these circumstances are transitory and will frequently reexamine conditions as we continue to serve the public through the pandemic and the current Omicron variant surge," said Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner. "I want to strongly emphasize that these measures have become necessary due to diminished staffing levels, and not for lack of safety, healthy or sanitary conditions within the courthouses themselves. We appreciate your patience through this challenging time during what we anticipate will include temporary limitations upon in-person courthouse access."

The safety and health of individuals permitted access to the courthouses is the Court’s highest priority. As such, the Court has undertaken significant measures bolster janitorial and sanitization efforts within our facilities, including:

- Increased efforts to clean and sanitize high traffic areas (including use of electrostatic sprayers);
- Mandating the use of double-layer face coverings in the courthouse;
- Staggering the start times for hearing calendars;
- Reducing the number of matters on each calendar;
- Utilizing remote appearance technology in courtrooms;
- Installing Plexiglas in open courtrooms; and
- Providing hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes throughout the courthouse and in courtrooms.

*****If you are sick or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, DO NOT come to Court.*****

The Court will postpone and reschedule court dates, as necessary, to accommodate those who are ill due to COVID-19. If you need to contact the Court or inform us of an illness, please use the following contact methods:

How to Contact the Court:

<p>HOW TO CONTACT THE COURT</p>  <p>COMUNICARSE CON LA CORTE</p> <p>LIÊN HỆ VỚI TÒA ÁN</p>	<p>01</p> <p>Court Website: www.scscourt.org</p>	<p>03</p> <p>By Telephone:</p>
	<p>02</p> <p>By Email:</p> <p>Civil sscivilinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Criminal sscriminfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Family ssfamilyinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Jury ssjuryinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Juvenile ssjuvinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Probate ssprobinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Small Claims sssclaimsinfo@scscourt.org</p> <p>Traffic sstrafficinfo@scscourt.org</p>	<p>Civil (408) 882-2100</p> <p>Criminal (408) 808-6600</p> <p>Family (408) 882-2700</p> <p>Jury (408) 808-6666</p> <p>Juvenile (408) 808-6200</p> <p>Probate (408) 882-2100</p> <p>Small Claims (408) 882-2100</p> <p>Traffic (408) 556-3000</p>