

PRESS RELEASE



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

El Centro, California – The Imperial County Superior Court is currently hearing the following via remote technology: criminal and misdemeanor cases; juvenile hearings, and some civil and probate matters. Effective May 11th, some family law matters will be heard remotely. Traffic, small claims and family support are all being continued. Attorneys and parties have received and will continue to receive notice of continued matters. Attorneys and parties can also check the Court’s online calendars at <https://imperial.courts.ca.gov/CourtCalendars/Public/MCalendars.aspx> to determine if matters are on calendar. If a matter is on calendar the remote links will be provided to parties and attorneys by emailing court@imperial.courts.ca.gov and providing the name and case number of the case.

The Brawley and Winterhaven courthouses remain closed to the public. The main courthouse at 939 Main Street in El Centro is open on a limited basis for the filing of paperwork involving children, for restraining orders and cases involving public safety. Paperwork must be completed and ready to file before access is allowed. Health and safety measures are being taken for those who do enter such as the taking of temperatures, requirement of masks and social distancing.

There are currently no jury trials taking place due to the emergency but jury summonses are being sent and those receiving a summons must still comply and call in. Otherwise, if they do not call in, their names may be placed on panels a few months from now as opposed to one year from now.

The Court anticipates that jury trials will begin in the near future as California opens in stages as outlined by Governor Newsom. When that occurs, jurors and others coming into the courthouses can rest assured we are doing all we can to protect the health and safety of those who enter our buildings. The Imperial County Superior Court has been complimented by staff, other agencies, and medical personnel on the steps being taken to protect those who are doing essential work and those who enter for court business. The steps include nightly fogging with industrial disinfectant of all public areas of our courthouses, hand sanitizer stations throughout the buildings and clearly marked social distancing. When the public is allowed access, including jurors, we will continue to take steps as recommended by the respective health departments to protect those who work and enter our buildings. An outline of what has been and is being done to protect our staff and those who enter our buildings is listed on our web site: <http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov>.

The public can watch court proceedings at kiosks located at the El Centro and Brawley courthouses. Effective May 1st, the public can listen to all court hearings that are not confidential. The phone numbers and access numbers are available on our court web page at <https://imperial.courts.ca.gov/CourtCalendars/Public/MCalendars.aspx>. It is against the California Rules of Court to record any court proceeding and violations are subject to contempt of court actions.