

PRESS RELEASE



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

El Centro, California: December 7, 2020 – The Imperial County Superior Court reduced its Restoration of Services Plan to Phase 1 last week due to COVID issues, which left only Civil and Probate matters being handled in person in the El Centro Courthouse. Effective Wednesday, December 9, 2020, the Court will cease operating in Phase 1 and all matters will return to remote only. There will be some in-person hearings and those will be on a case-by-case basis ordered by the judge handling the hearing. The Court will continue to hear all matters except Small Claims. All Small Claims matters will be continued. The Court has already begun sending notices to counsel, defendants, and litigants regarding remote appearances which contain the information on how to appear remotely.

If you are a defendant, litigant, or witness, you should email the Court at court@imperial.courts.ca.gov to obtain remote hearing information. Please include your name and the case number when you request the information. If a person is unable to appear remotely, they should come to the respective courthouse and check-in with security officers who will direct them to a kiosk so they can remotely attend their hearings.

The El Centro Courthouse will limit public entry to self-represented litigants who need to file documents in the Civil Department to obtain restraining orders, custody orders, and other documents for the protection of the public. The Criminal Clerks Office will be closed except to law enforcement officers in need of search warrants or filings necessary to protect the public. If documents are needed by a member of the public such as forms to obtain restraining orders, they should come to the El Centro Courthouse and check with a security officer. Documents will be provided at that time. The Brawley and Winterhaven Courthouses remain closed to the public except for those appearing at a kiosk for a remote appearance.

Attorneys and public agencies are required to file all documents with the Court's electronic delivery and filing service.