

**Superior Court of California  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge

Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge

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René C. Davidson Courthouse

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 16, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of Alameda County closes all courthouses to the public in support of Bay Area “Shelter in Place” Orders.

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On March 14, 2020, the Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) issued a press release detailing its proactive efforts to substantially alter court operations to mitigate the spread of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Subsequently, on March 16, 2020, the Alameda County Public Health Department (County Health) issued a “Shelter in Place” Order (Order) intended to “ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible.”

The Alameda County Superior Court supports the Shelter in Place Order and has determined that it cannot adequately comply with COVID-related guidance from Centers for Disease Control, County Health, and other authorities and still remain open to the public.

Accordingly, on March 16, 2020, the Court requested an Emergency Order from Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California pursuant to Government Code section 68115. The Emergency Order requests permission for the Alameda County Superior Court to close all courthouse locations to the public during the Shelter in Place period, from Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through end of day, Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

If granted, pursuant to its inherent authority and the specific authorization conferred by the Emergency Order, the Court will suspend virtually all Court operations during the public closure period. To the extent permitted by law, the days in the closure period that would otherwise be business days will be treated as “Court Holidays” for the purpose of statutory time and date calculations.

Notwithstanding the above, the Court will endeavor to provide a limited ability for the public to file applications for Temporary Restraining Orders via drop box at the Hayward Hall of Justice only. The Court will issue further guidance to the public via its [COVID-19 web site](#) if and when limited restraining order filing becomes available. Per the anticipated Emergency

Order, all current Temporary Restraining Orders will be extended by 30 days.

During this public closure period, because the Clerk's Office will not be open to process unlawful detainer stay requests, the Court is also ordering the stay of all evictions pending between Tuesday, March 17, 2020, up to and through Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the anticipated re-opening of the Court.

Litigants may continue to electronically file documents in Criminal and Juvenile case types during the closure period. However, please be aware that processing will likely be delayed until after the Court's reopening.

The Court thanks the public, its Court partners, and its employees for their support and understanding during this unprecedented emergency, and will make every effort to re-open and increase services as soon as health and safety directives permit.