



## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

1100 ANACAPA STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**TO: ALL INFORMATION MEDIA – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: DARREL E. PARKER,  
SUPERIOR COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER / JURY COMMISSIONER**

**DATE: May 21, 2020**

#### **EXPANSION OF COURT SERVICES**

Today, the Santa Barbara County Superior Court announced the expansion of services to be provided to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 17, 2020, the Court closed almost all courtrooms to the public, hearing only emergency matters and time sensitive, in-custody criminal cases. Clerk's offices were closed for in-person transactions. In the intervening months, the court has endeavored to conduct most mandated criminal proceedings by using conference calling and Zoom videoconferencing technology. Working collaboratively with the Sheriff's jail staff, County and Court Information Technology, the Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation, and private attorneys, the county criminal justice partners have successfully reduced the number of people required to attend court proceedings in person.

As the Governor and Santa Barbara County officials ease restrictions, the Court now cautiously resumes civil, family law, and probate matters by expanding the use of conference calling and video conferencing technology. Matters scheduled, but postponed during the court closure are now being rescheduled, and self-represented parties and attorneys will begin receiving notification of a new hearing date.

Those persons with civil, family law, and probate matters previously scheduled from May 26 through June 5, should plan on appearing for their court hearing by conference call. All telephonic appearances must be coordinated by CourtCall. Self-represented parties and lawyers must contact CourtCall directly at (888) 882-6878 or at [www.courtcall.com](http://www.courtcall.com) to make arrangements. For matters calendared May 26 through June 5, a notice of confirmation of hearing will be sent to self-represented litigants to the address on file with the court, and telephonic confirmation of hearing is being provided to lawyers.

Persons with family support matters involving the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) will receive notice of their rescheduled hearing and instructions for remote appearances from DCSS.

No confirmation of hearing will be provided to self-represented parties nor attorneys for currently scheduled hearings on or after June 8.

A notice of a rescheduled hearing will be sent to self-represented parties and attorneys whose hearings scheduled during the court closure (March 17 – May 22) were postponed. Represented litigants should contact their attorney for information on how to access the court. Those persons without an attorney, or representing themselves, can find information on the court's website at [www.sbcourts.org](http://www.sbcourts.org). Alternatively, litigants with currently scheduled hearings can call the clerk's office in Santa Barbara at (805) 882-4520 and in Santa Maria at (805) 614-6414.

The Superior Court Clerk's Offices will remain closed for in-person transactions until the state's Stay-at-Home order is lifted. However, Court staff are working and can be reached by phone at the numbers above.

Those persons with criminal or traffic matters who have missed their court date due to the court's closure will receive notification of a new date to appear or make payment.