

**Superior Court of California  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 17, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County offers relief to litigants in traffic cases, and provides alternatives to litigants in time-not-waived traffic trials.

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The Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating tremendous burdens, financial and otherwise, on Alameda County residents. In an effort to ease the burden on litigants in traffic cases, the Court offers a number of relief opportunities, including deadline extensions, \$0 bail trials by declaration, and remote time-not-waived traffic trials.

On March 17, 2020, the Court extended most traffic court hearings and deadlines by 60 days. The Court is now extending these deadlines by an additional 60 days. As a result, litigants whose court appearances were scheduled for any date between March 17 and May 1, 2020, will now have their court dates automatically continued by the Court for approximately 120 days. The Court will send notifications of new court dates to litigants at the address on their traffic citations or the Notices to Appear that they received from law enforcement.

The Court is also continuing for 120 days the following deadlines to pay or complete an activity, where those deadlines would otherwise fall between March 17 and May 1, 2020:

- Traffic School Completion Due Dates
- Traffic School Fee Due Dates
- Bail Forfeiture Due Dates
- Installment Payment Due Dates
- Fine Due Dates
- Citation Due Dates
- Volunteer Work and Community Service Due Dates, and
- Trial by Declaration Due Dates

In addition, litigants whose driving privileges were suspended due to a failure to appear at a court hearing (FTA) or because of a failure to pay a fine may contact the Court at [AskTraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov](mailto:AskTraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov) to have the hold on their driver's licenses lifted. The Court has also suspended reporting FTAs to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Further, the Court has extended all due dates on new traffic citations by 180 days. Therefore, persons who were recently cited by law enforcement for a traffic violation or other infraction offense will not have a first court date for several months.

The March 30, 2020, [Statewide Order](#) issued by Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California, authorized superior courts to extend the usual 45-day time limit for time-not-waived trials by an additional 60 days. Accordingly, the Court has the authority to continue all time-not-waived traffic trials to a date within the new time limit. The Court recognizes, however, that members of the public may have urgent reasons to resolve their traffic matters more quickly.

One alternative for a quicker resolution is to request a trial by written declaration, which now can be conducted without requiring the litigant to post bail. In its April 8, 2020, [Emergency Local Rule 4.115](#), the Court set bail for criminal infractions at \$0.00. This includes traffic infractions. As a result, litigants may request a trial by declaration, and those trials will be heard without requiring the additional posting of funds. Litigants are encouraged to look at the Court's [traffic](#) and [COVID-19](#) websites to explore that opportunity. The Court will also send notices to all litigants with trials scheduled for the months of April and May, advising them of their right to a trial by written declaration and providing instructions on how to request such a trial.

The Court is also pleased to announce that, starting the week of May 4, 2020, it will begin conducting trials in time-not-waived traffic matters remotely, via videoconferencing, for those who prefer a live hearing. This option will be available to litigants who consent to appear remotely, as permitted under [Emergency Rule 3](#), adopted by the Judicial Council of California on April 6, 2020. Remote trials will be conducted using the [BlueJeans](#) video service, which can be accessed via the web or through a mobile device application. The Court will send information about video trial options—including consent forms and instructions—to all litigants with pending time-not-waived traffic trials.

The Court is preparing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list that will address these issues and provide additional information about traffic matters during the COVID-19 crisis. When complete, that FAQ will be posted on the Court's COVID-19 web page.