

**Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge
Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County expands filings and hearings in civil, family, and probate matters, publishes updated FAQ, and prepares to seek additional Emergency Order in anticipation of extending public closure.

Effective Thursday, April 30, 2020, the Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) has amended [emergency Local Rule 1.8a](#) to expand the services available to the public in civil, family, and probate matters. Beginning Monday, May 4, 2020, the Court will hear additional, specified motions in civil cases. These motion hearings—which will apply to cases with trial dates between May 4 and August 31, 2020, and to hearing dates between March 17, 2020 and May 4, 2020, that were reserved before the Court’s public closure began on March 17 —will be conducted entirely remotely, in conformance with public health directives. The Court will also begin taking reservations for a limited number of new motions, as detailed in the rule.

In addition, the Court has again expanded the list of documents that can be filed by fax, drop box, or mail and has provided clarification as to how previously filed motions will be file-stamped. These and other issues are detailed in a revised [Frequently Asked Questions list](#), which can be found on the Court’s [COVID-19 web page](#).

Further, in light of the [April 29, 2020, Order](#) of the Alameda County Public Health Officer extending the current shelter in place directive through May 31, 2020, the Court is preparing to request a continuance of the emergency authority conferred by Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California, on [March 17](#) and [April 3, 2020](#). The Court intends to request that authority through May 31, 2020, and anticipates continuing the public closure period during that same time, consistent with federal, state, and local public health directives.

However, despite any ongoing public closure, the Court recognizes its essential role in this critical time and will continue to work to restore as many functions and services as possible, within existing technological and resource limitations, so long as those functions and services can be provided remotely in conformance with social distancing and other health and safety requirements.