

Memorandum re Traffic Cases During the Covid – 19 Court Closure

Date: Updated as of January 8, 2021

The following is designed to address incoming questions during the Court's COVID- 19 closure period. It will be updated as needed; however, this is an ever-changing, fluid situation. We appreciate your patience.

<u>FAQ</u>

1. What if I have a scheduled Court date?

The Court is giving and strongly encouraging litigants the option of appearing in court by remote video proceeding until Traffic Court reopens. Instructions on how to connect to the Court by remote video will be sent to litigants. Those litigants who do not wish to appear by remote video or do not have the capability to appear by remote video will have the appearance dates on their cases extended. Unless you notified us of a change of address, your new court date will be sent to you at the address on the traffic citation or Notice to Appear given to you by a law enforcement officer.

2. What if I have a No Time Waiver (NTW) trial scheduled and want to appear in person or cannot appear by remote video?

All NTW trials in which the defendant does not consent to remote video will be scheduled to appear in Department 603 at the Fremont Hall of Justice or Department 102 at the Oakland – Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse. If the trial date is inconvenient, litigants may waive time and their trials will be rescheduled to another date.

3. Will there be any extension for fines and Traffic School due dates?

If you had a deadline to pay or complete an activity, and that deadline is between January 8, 2021 and April 8, 2021, those deadlines will be extended 120 days from the date of the original deadline. These extensions apply to:

- 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

4. How Can I Get My Driver's License Hold Lifted?

If your driving privilege was suspended due to the failure to appear at a court hearing or because of a failure to pay a fine, you may contact the Court to schedule an appearance.

- Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607 (510) 627-4700
- Fremont Hall of Justice 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538 (510) 818-7500
- East County Hall of Justice 5151 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 (925) 227-6700

5. What if I get a new citation instructing me to appear in court during the Court's closure?

You may contact the Court to request a remote video appearance. If you wish to appear in court in person, your court date will be scheduled after January 2, 2022.

6. How can I waive time so that I can reschedule my trial date to another day?

Forms to request to waive time can be obtained at <u>Waiver of Rights - Speedy Trial</u>, and can be mailed, submitted to <u>Asktraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov</u> or returned to the Court's drop box at any of the following courthouses:

- Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607
- Fremont Hall of Justice 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538
- East County Hall of Justice 5151 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA 94568

7. Are there any alternatives available for my trial?

Yes. Alameda County Superior Court Emergency Local Rule 4.115, has temporarily reduced bail in infraction matters to \$0. Therefore, anyone with a pending trial may elect to proceed with the trial by way of a Trial by Written Declaration, without being required to post any monetary amount of bail.

Litigants who do not wish to have a Trial by Written Declaration and do not wish to waive time are encouraged to consent to having their trials conducted by way of remote video. This will allow litigants to appear at trial from the comfort of their own homes without the need to be present in the courtroom.

8. How do I request a Trial by Written Declaration?

Instructions and request forms can be obtained on-line at <u>TBD Instructions</u>, <u>TBD</u> <u>Request</u> and submitted to <u>Asktraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov</u> or returned to the Court's drop box.

9. How can I request a trial by remote video?

If you would like the ability to appear by remote video from a *location of your choice*, please review, complete and submit the following Judicial Council of California forms located at www.courts.ca.gov:

- TR500 Instructions to Defendant for Remote Video Proceeding
- TR505 Notice and Waiver of Rights and Request for Remote Video Arraignment and Trial or
- TR510 Notice and Waiver of Rights and Request for Remote Video Proceeding

Forms can be submitted by mail, emailing it to <u>AskTraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov</u> or returning it to one of the Court's drop box located at:

- Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607
- Fremont Hall of Justice 39439 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538
- East County Hall of Justice 5151 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA 94568