

Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA



Morris Jacobson, Presiding Judge

Chad Finke, Executive Officer

René C. Davidson Courthouse

1225 Fallon Street

Oakland, California 94612



@AlamedaSuperior

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 20, 2017

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: *With the exception of the East County Hall of Justice in Dublin, the Wiley W. Manuel courthouse in Oakland, and the Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro, all courthouses in Alameda County will be closed from Friday, December 22, 2017, through Monday, January 1, 2018.*

***** PUBLIC NOTICE *****

PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 68106

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COURT LOCATIONS

For several years during the Recession, California's trial courts were subject to severe budget reductions. Although the State's economy has improved in recent years, only a small percentage of that funding has been restored to the courts. Further, although the Superior Court of Alameda County's budget was not cut this year (it was kept at the same level as last year), it was cut every year from Fiscal Year 2008-2009 through Fiscal Year 2016-2017. These many years of cuts have had an aggregate negative effect on our ability to provide basic services within the money allotted.

In light of these factors, the Court has engaged in ongoing efforts to balance the budget by reducing costs. The many cost-saving solutions implemented by the Court include—but are not limited to—the following:

- Eliminating a number of vacant staff positions;
- Instituting a "hard freeze" of no less than 12 months on filling other positions;
- Instituting a "soft freeze" on all other positions, meaning that any vacant position will be kept vacant for no fewer than 90 days after it opens up;
- Reducing the use of outside contractors and consultants;
- Eliminating the use of overtime or comp time for staff except in certain very narrow instances;
- Reducing expenditures on office supplies; and
- Reducing printing costs by switching to a postcard format for jury summonses.

In addition, the Court has identified ways to save money on staff salaries—the Court's largest item of expense. Specifically, the Court is offering a Voluntary Time-Off Program (VTOP) for staff from

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December 22, 2017, through January 1, 2018. Staff who participate will take five business days off without pay, resulting in savings in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the Court regrets the impact these closures will have on the public's access to justice, they represent the Court's only viable option for addressing the dire economic circumstances imposed upon it.

As required by Government Code § 68106, the details of the upcoming courthouse closures are as follows:

- With the exception of the East County Hall of Justice (ECHOJ) located at 5151 Gleason Drive in Dublin, the Wiley W. Manuel courthouse (WWM) located at 661 Washington Street in Oakland, and the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) located at 2500 Fairmont Drive in San Leandro, all other courthouses in Alameda County will be closed to the public from Friday, December 22, 2017, through Monday, January 1, 2018, reopening on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
- The courthouses that are closed during this period will offer no Court services to the public, including but not limited to drop box filing services. During this period, limited staff will be on hand at WWM (for all case types except Juvenile); JJC (for Juvenile only); and ECHOJ (for Criminal only) from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017, and from Tuesday, December 26, 2017, through Friday, December 29, 2017, to accept filings in the above noted case types.
- As required by rule 2.210 of the California Rules of Court, drop boxes will be available at WWM, JJC, and ECHOJ during this period for filings made after the clerk's office closes at 2:30 p.m. and before 4:00 p.m.
- The Court's Self-Help Center and Family Law Facilitator's Office will be closed during this period.
- A limited number of courtrooms will be staffed at ECHOJ and WWM during this period for the purposes of hearing time-sensitive criminal matters, reviewing restraining order applications, and other requests for emergency relief.
- The Court's Fax Filing service will continue to operate during the closure period. More information about Fax Filing can be found on the Court's website: <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/Pages.aspx/Fax-Filing>.
- Because the Court anticipates having a significantly reduced staffing level during the closure period, the time in which the Court is able to respond to phone calls, voicemail messages, and emails will be increased, and delays are likely.
- The Court will establish a dedicated web page for up-to-date information about the specifics of the upcoming closures, including which judicial officers will be presiding in which departments during that time. The Court web page will be located at: <http://bit.ly/2hQrqaw>.
- The public can also follow the Court on Twitter [@AlamedaSuperior](https://twitter.com/AlamedaSuperior) for additional up-to-date information regarding the closures.
- The public may provide public comment on these planned closures in writing, either (a) by mail, directed to the Executive Office, 1225 Fallon Street, Room 209, Oakland, CA 94612; or (b) via email to pcomments@alameda.courts.ca.gov.