Superior Court of California COUNTY OF ALAMEDA



Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge Chad Finke, Executive Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County to offer reduced services the weeks of November 23, December 21, and December 28, 2020.

The Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) announced today that it will offer significantly reduced services during the holiday weeks of November 23, December 21, and December 28, 2020. These service reductions are a necessary cost-saving measure in order to help address this year's funding shortfall.

The 2020-2021 California State Budget included \$200M in cuts to the superior courts; nearly \$7M of that total was allocated to the Alameda County Superior Court. In an attempt to absorb this funding reduction, the Court has implemented a wide variety of cost-saving measures. One such solution is a Voluntary Time Off Program (VTOP) that enables employees to take unpaid leave during the VTOP holiday weeks.

During each of the three VTOP weeks, the Court will remain open but will not summons new jurors to report in person. In addition, the Court will limit hearings to the following locations and case types:

COURTHOUSE	DEPT	DATE & TIME	HEARING TYPE
Wiley W. Manuel	106	Tuesdays, 9:00 AM	Restraining orders for Civil
Courthouse,			Harassment, Workplace
Oakland (WWM)			Violence & School Violence
Juvenile Justice	401	Daily, 9:00 AM	Delinquency Detentions
Center (JJC)			
JIC	405	Daily, 9:00 AM	Dependency Detentions
John George	410	Tuesdays, 9:00 AM	Conservatorships
Psychiatric Pavilion			
Hayward Hall of	502	Mondays &	Restraining Orders for
Justice (HHJ)		Wednesdays	Domestic Violence (8:45 or
		8:45, 9:00 or 10:00 AM	9:00), Gun Violence &
			Elder Abuse (10:00)
ННЈ	519	Tuesdays, 9:00 AM	Restraining orders for Civil
			Harassment, Workplace
			Violence & School Violence
East County Hall of	702	Daily, 9:00 AM	"North County" in-custody
Justice, Dublin			criminal arraignments
(ECHOJ)			
ECHOJ	712	Daily, 9:00 AM	"South County" in-custody
			criminal arraignments

In order to prepare for these limited calendars during VTOP weeks, the Court is opening additional criminal departments the preceding weeks of November 16 and December 14, 2020. These departments will be available to hear dispositions and matters that might otherwise have been heard during the VTOP weeks. Despite the Court's significantly reduced staffing, the Court <u>will</u> continue to offer the following administrative services during the VTOP weeks, although users may experience longer wait times and other delays:

- Clerk's office telephone hours;
- Self-Help Center telephone hours and Live Chat;
- Drop box and fax filing;
- Restraining Order and other emergency order review and processing; and
- Limited in-person records searches at the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland.

The Court appreciates the public's patience and understanding during these challenging times, and is confident that the VTOP and other proactive cost-saving measures will enable the Court to continue to provide as many ongoing essential services to the public as possible over the course of the fiscal year. For more information about the Court, please visit our <u>website</u> and follow @AlamedaSuperior on <u>Twitter</u>.