Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge

Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge

Chad Finke, Executive Officer

René C. Davidson Courthouse
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Chair of the Judicial Council grants Superior Court of Alameda County's request for an Emergency Order authorizing court closure period.

On March 16, 2020, the Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) issued a press release announcing that it would be closed to the public for most Court operations from March 17, 2020, up to and through April 7, 2020. The Court's decision to close was based on the March 16, 2020, "Shelter in Place" Order (Order) issued by the Alameda County Public Health Department (County Health) and the Court's conclusion that it cannot adequately comply with that Order and other COVID-related guidance from Centers for Disease Control, County Health, and other authorities and still remain open to the public as usual.

On March 17, 2020, the Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California, granted the Court's request for an Emergency Order. The Emergency Order is retroactive to March 16, 2020, and confers broad authority upon the Court to take various actions needed to effectuate the public closure. Pursuant to that authority:

- All courthouses in Alameda County remain closed to the public for general business.
- The days March 17, 2020, through April 3, 2020, will be considered court holidays per Code of Civil Procedure sections 12 and 12a. Documents will not be received for filing during this time period; the Court's Fax Filing service will be temporarily suspended.
- Notwithstanding the above filing moratorium, the Court recognizes the urgency of certain filing types. Therefore, the Court will continue to accept requests for Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) and applications for emergency relief in Family Law and Probate matters, via drop box only, at the following locations:
    - Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland: TROs and emergency Probate applications;
    - Hayward Hall of Justice: TROs and emergency Family Law applications.
- The Court is working with its justice partners on a plan to conduct in-custody adult arraignments and juvenile detention hearings on a reduced schedule, as resources and health and safety constraints permit. These hearings will not be open to the public.

Further, as noted in its prior Press Release of March 16, 2020, the Court has ordered the stay of all evictions pending between Tuesday, March 17, 2020, up to and through Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in light of the fact that the Clerk's Office will not be open to process unlawful detainer stay requests.

The Court will continue to issue Press Releases and update its COVID-19 web site as circumstances evolve.