



## Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on July 27, 2012

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Government Code Section 68106: Implementation and Notice by Trial Courts of Closing Courtrooms or Clerks' Offices or Reducing Clerks' Office Hours (Report #13)	Information Only
	Date of Report
	July 19, 2012
Submitted by	Contact
Mary M. Roberts, General Counsel Nancy E. Spero, Senior Attorney Office of the General Counsel	Nancy E. Spero, 415-865-7915 <a href="mailto:nancy.spero@jud.ca.gov">nancy.spero@jud.ca.gov</a>

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### Executive Summary

In 2010, the Legislature enacted fee increases and fund transfers for the courts and also added section 68106 to the Government Code. Effective January 1, 2011, and June 27, 2012, the Legislature amended section 68106.<sup>1</sup> In its current form, section 68106 directs (1) trial courts to notify the public and the Judicial Council before closing courtrooms or clerks' offices or reducing clerks' office hours on days that are not judicial holidays, and (2) the council to post on its website and relay to the Legislature all such court notices. This is the thirteenth report providing information about recent court notices received pursuant to this requirement. Since the twelfth report, seven courts—Nevada, Shasta, El Dorado, Tulare, San Diego, Kings, and Napa—have given such notices. Since section 68106 was originally enacted, a total of 35 courts have given notice.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment A contains the full text of Government Code section 68106, and reflects the most recent amendments that became effective on June 27, 2012. Those amendments did not add to courts' existing public notice requirements.

<sup>2</sup> All courts' notices are listed and posted at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/12973.htm>. Some courts have given more than one notice.

## Seven Courts' Notices Since the Last Report

- The Superior Court of Nevada County is continuing through June 30, 2013, shortened Friday hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the courthouse and 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the clerks' office. Also continuing will be Monday through Thursday hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the courthouse and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the clerks' office. A drop box continues to be provided at both locations, Nevada City and Truckee, to permit same-day filing of documents deposited on or before 5:00 p.m.
- Effective August 13, 2012, the Superior Court of Shasta County will reduce hours of the civil and criminal clerks' offices in Redding to 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., previously 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On the same date, the court will reduce the hours of the clerks' office in Burney to one day per month, on the second Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Previously the Burney clerks' office had been opened every Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Effective August 27, 2012, the Superior Court of El Dorado County will reduce clerks' office hours to 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., previously 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Drop boxes are located outside each clerks' office to permit same-day filing of documents deposited by 4:00 p.m.
- Effective August 31, 2012, the Superior Court of Tulare County will close its Tulare location, and will consolidate those operations into the Visalia and Porterville locations.
- Effective September 3, 2012, the Superior Court of San Diego County will make the following changes in service: Clerks' offices will be closed on Fridays at noon, but will remain open, as under the current schedule, on Mondays through Thursdays until 3:30 p.m. Drop boxes for filing will be available. Probate court operations at the North County (Vista) location will be consolidated and relocated to the Central Division with the transfer of all probate cases from Vista to Central. The Ramona court facility including the courtroom and clerks' office will close. One juvenile dependency courtroom at the Vista location will be closed. One civil and six criminal courtrooms in the Central Division will be closed.
- Effective September 10, 2012, the Superior Court of Kings County will close its Lemoore branch, and will consolidate those operations with the Hanford and Corcoran branches. Effective with the notice, on July 10, 2012, the court reduced family law facilitator services at its Lemoore branch from two days per week to one. Effective September 12, 2012, clerks' office hours at all locations will remain Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but the hours on Friday will be reduced to 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Documents placed in drop boxes prior to 4:30 p.m. on a day the court is in session will be deemed filed on that day.

- Effective September 7, 2012, and through December 2013, the Superior Court of Napa County will close all courthouses, including all clerks' offices, at 2:30 p.m. rather than 5:00 p.m. each Friday, and also will institute unpaid furlough day closures on Christmas Eve (December 24) and New Years Eve (December 31) pursuant to Government Code section 68108. On the unpaid furlough day closures, the court will provide drop boxes and have a judge available to handle time-sensitive matters and emergencies as the law requires.

### **Mandate in Government Code Section 68106 (Budget Act of 2010)**

In providing fee increases and fund transfers for the courts, the Legislature in its Budget Act of 2010 expressly declared its intention that trial courts remain open to the public on days that are not judicial holidays and that access to court services for civil litigants be preserved to the extent practicable. Statements confirming this intent were strengthened in Government Code section 68106, following its recent amendment.<sup>3</sup> As amended, the section imposes the following notice requirements on trial courts and the Judicial Council:

- Trial courts must provide written notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices, although "[n]othing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions."<sup>4</sup> The trial court is to provide this notice "by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court's electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council . . . ."<sup>5</sup> The notice must describe the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, state the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary, and invite public comment.<sup>6</sup> Courts expressly are *not* obligated to respond to comments received.<sup>7</sup> If a court changes its plan "as a result of the comments received or for any other reason" during the 60-day notice period, however, it must "immediately provide notice to the public" by posting and distributing "a revised notice" using the procedure previously described, including distribution to the Judicial Council.<sup>8</sup>
- The Judicial Council must, within 15 days of receiving a notice from a trial court, "conspicuously" post the notice "on its Internet Web site" and forward a copy to the chairs and vice-chairs of the legislative Committees on the Judiciary, the chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The full text of Government Code section 68106, as amended, is set forth in Attachment A.

<sup>4</sup> Gov. Code, § 68106(c).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1)–(b)(2)(A).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(2)(B).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(3).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Implementation Efforts**

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which carries out the directives of the Judicial Council, notified all trial court presiding judges and court executive officers of the enactment of this statutory mandate, and the AOC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) provided legal guidance regarding compliance. Trial courts have been requested to e-mail any such notices to Debora Morrison, OGC Senior Attorney, who has been providing legal review of the courts' notices since the inception of Government Code section 68106. On January 11, 2012, OGC also issued a statewide memorandum to all presiding judges and court executives describing amendments to Government Code section 68106 that took effect on January 1, 2012, and explaining the impact of those changes. OGC has not issued a similar memorandum following the most recent amendment, as those amendments did not change requirements for the courts.

The AOC has placed on the home page of the California Courts website a "Quick Link" to a "Limited Court Service Days" page, which contains information about Government Code section 68106,<sup>10</sup> and all notices received from trial courts about courtroom or clerks' office closures or reductions in clerks' office hours that remain in effect. Since the last report to the council, the notices from the Nevada, Shasta, El Dorado, Tulare, San Diego, Kings, and Napa courts have been added.

The AOC has forwarded these notices from these courts to the designated legislative leaders.

## **Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Government Code section 68106
2. Attachment B: May 7, 2012, notice from Nevada
3. Attachment C: June 13, 2012, notice from Shasta
4. Attachment D: June 22, 2012, notice from El Dorado
5. Attachment E: June 27, 2012, notice from Tulare
6. Attachment F: July 2, 2012, notice from San Diego
7. Attachment G: July 10, 2012, notice from Kings
8. Attachment H: July, 11, 2012, notice from Napa

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<sup>10</sup> This page is available at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/12973.htm>

Government Code section 68106, as amended by budget trailer legislation (SB 1021) this year, effective June 27, 2012.<sup>11</sup> The June 27, 2012, amendments are indicated by underline and interlineations.

(a) (1) In making appropriations for the support of the trial courts, the Legislature recognizes the importance of increased revenues from litigants and lawyers, including increased revenues from civil filing fees. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that courts give the highest priority to keeping courtrooms open for civil and criminal proceedings. It is ~~therefore~~ also the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent practicable, in the allocation of resources by and for trial courts, access to court services for civil litigants be preserved in the allocation of resources by and for trial courts, budget cuts not fall disproportionately on civil cases, and the right to trial by jury be preserved.

(2) Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the Budget Act of 2010, which includes increases in civil and criminal court fees and penalties, that trial courts remain open to the public on all days except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115.

(b)(1) A trial court shall provide written notification to the public by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court's electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council, not less than 60 days prior to closing any courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices during regular business hours on any day except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115. The notification shall include the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, and the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary.

(2)(A) The notification required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include information on how the public may provide written comments during the 60-day period on the court's plan for closing a courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices. The court shall review and consider all public comments received. If the court plan for closing a courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices, changes as a result of the comments received or for any other reason, the court shall immediately provide notice to the public by posting a revised notice within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court's electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council. Any change in the court's plan pursuant to this paragraph shall not require notification beyond the initial 60-day period.

(B) This paragraph shall not be construed to obligate courts to provide responses to the comments received.

(3) Within 15 days of receipt of a notice from a trial court, the Judicial Council shall conspicuously post on its Internet Web site and provide the chairs and vice chairs of the

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<sup>11</sup> Stats. 2012, ch. 41, § 22.

Committees on Judiciary, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review a copy of any notice received pursuant to this subdivision. The Legislature intends to review the information obtained pursuant to this section to ensure that California trial courts remain open and accessible to the public.

(c) Nothing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions.

Government Code section 68106, as amended by budget trailer legislation (SB 1021) this year, effective June 27, 2012.<sup>11</sup> The June 27, 2012, amendments are indicated by underline and interlineations.

(a) (1) In making appropriations for the support of the trial courts, the Legislature recognizes the importance of increased revenues from litigants and lawyers, including increased revenues from civil filing fees. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that courts give the highest priority to keeping courtrooms open for civil and criminal proceedings. It is ~~therefore~~ also the intent of the Legislature that, to the extent practicable, in the allocation of resources by and for trial courts, access to court services for civil litigants be preserved ~~in the allocation of resources by and for trial courts,~~ budget cuts not fall disproportionately on civil cases, and the right to trial by jury be preserved.

(2) Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the Budget Act of 2010, which includes increases in civil and criminal court fees and penalties, that trial courts remain open to the public on all days except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115.

(b)(1) A trial court shall provide written notification to the public by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court's electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council, not less than 60 days prior to closing any courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices during regular business hours on any day except judicial holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and except as authorized pursuant to Section 68115. The notification shall include the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, and the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary.

(2)(A) The notification required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include information on how the public may provide written comments during the 60-day period on the court's plan for closing a courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices. The court shall review and consider all public comments received. If the court plan for closing a courtroom, or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices, changes as a result of the comments received or for any other reason, the court shall immediately provide notice to the public by posting a revised notice within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court's electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council. Any change in the court's plan pursuant to this paragraph shall not require notification beyond the initial 60-day period.

(B) This paragraph shall not be construed to obligate courts to provide responses to the comments received.

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(c) Nothing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions.



Superior Court of California, County of Nevada

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 68106**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 7, 2012

**UPDATED NOTICE OF CHANGE IN COURTHOUSE AND  
CLERKS' OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION**

**THIS UPDATE EXTENDS THE PERIOD OF CHANGED  
HOURS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013**

**FRIDAY HOURS OF OPERATION:**

**Courthouse: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Clerks' Office: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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**Beginning November 4, 2011, Friday courthouse hours changed to 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Clerks' Office hours changed to 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This change in hours will continue to and will remain in effect until June 30, 2013.**

**This change applies to the courthouse and clerks' office locations in Nevada City and Truckee.**

Currently, Nevada County courthouse locations are open to the public between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Current Clerk's Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Hours of operation Monday through Thursday will remain unchanged.

A document drop box is provided at both locations to receive documents after Clerks' Office closures. All documents dropped on or before 5:00 p.m. will be received and filed the day they are dropped. All documents will be removed from all drop boxes just after 5:00 p.m. daily. Any document dropped after 5:00 p.m. will be received and filed the following court business day.

The Superior Court of Nevada County has taken this action due to multiple ongoing budget reductions and a significantly reduced work force.

This notice has been posted on the Court's web site ([www.nevadacountycourts.com](http://www.nevadacountycourts.com)).





Superior Court of California  
County of Shasta

MELISSA FOWLER-BRADLEY  
Court Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court

JOHN ZEIS  
Assistant Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court

June 13, 2012

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SHASTA

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE  
(Pursuant To Government Code § 68106)

The Superior Court of California, County of Shasta currently operates civil and criminal clerk's offices in Redding Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. **This notice is to inform the public of the Superior Court's final decision to reduce office hours to 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each court business day. The new hours for civil and criminal clerk's offices will go into effect on Monday, August 13, 2012.**

The Probate and Family Court Services Division, Jury Services Division, Family Law Facilitator's Office, the Human Resources Division, the Marshal's Office and the Court Collections Division are not impacted by the court's decision to reduce hours at this time.

The Superior Court of California, County of Shasta also operates a clerk's office in Burney each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **This notice is to inform the public of the Superior Court's final decision to reduce office hours in Burney to one day per month, on the second Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The new hours will go into effect on Monday, August 13, 2012.**

The court finds the above actions are necessary due to the significant and continuing cuts to the budget of the state judicial branch. Since 2009, state funding for the judicial branch has been reduced by 30%, with significant reductions impacting the budgets of individual superior courts. Given the most recent cuts to branch funding proposed in the 2012/2013 budget, the

court anticipates that its funding will suffer significant reductions effective July 1, 2012. As a result, it will not be fiscally feasible to keep the clerk's offices open longer hours than as set forth above.

Workload considerations dictate that court staff be redirected from the Burney location to assist in the main Redding Courthouse, to reduce court user waiting times at that location.

Court users may mail documents directly to the Redding Courthouse at: Shasta County Superior Court, 1500 Court Street, Redding, California 96001 in lieu of personally visiting the clerk's offices. Civil and criminal court employees in Redding are available by telephone at (530) 245-6789 during the reduced business hours. The court's Internet site ([www.shastacourts.com](http://www.shastacourts.com)) also contains information about court services, for example, about how to pay a fine online 24/7. The Court Collections Division will remain open 8:30 to 4:30 each court business day to accept fine payments.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. If you would like to submit comments about the proposed reduction in clerks' office hours, please send them to Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer, 1500 Court Street, Room 205, Redding, California 96001 or by calling 530-245-6761.



## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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# PUBLIC NOTICE\*

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### REDUCED CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, August 27, 2012

Effective Monday, August 27, 2012, all El Dorado County Superior Court branches will reduce service hours for the public filing windows and telephones to 8:00 am to 3:00 pm from the current service hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The changes in public service hours will not affect the courtroom calendars or schedules.

Due to the catastrophic reductions in funding, El Dorado County Superior Court has implemented numerous reduction measures, including downsizing the Court's workforce in order to operationalize four years of continuing and deepening state funding cuts resulting in a cumulative 24% reduction to trial court funding to date. Trial courts will receive additional funding reductions in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Document drop boxes are located outside each Clerk's Office for filing papers or submitting payments. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.210(b) any document deposited in a court's drop box up to and including 4:00 pm on a court day is deemed to have been deposited for filing on that day.

**Comments may be submitted to [scadmin@eldoradocourt.org](mailto:scadmin@eldoradocourt.org)**

\*Government Code section 68106 requires trial courts to provide notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices by conspicuous posting within its facilities and on its public website.





## Superior Court of the State of California

LaRayne Cleek  
Court Executive Officer/Jury  
Commissioner

Deanna A. Jasso  
Court Administrative Manager

**COUNTY OF TULARE**  
ADMINISTRATION  
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 303  
Visalia, California 93291  
Telephone: (559) 730-5000  
Facsimile: (559) 737-4290

June 27, 2012

Jody Patel  
Interim Administrative Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

### **Re: NOTIFICATION OF CLOSURE PURSUANT TO GC §68106**

Dear Ms. Patel:

Despite the Tulare County Superior Court effectively practicing prudent fiscal planning and implementing effective cost cutting measures responsive to the budget reductions over the past several fiscal years, the 2012-13 fiscal year brings the most severe fiscal crisis the court has faced to date. The Tulare County Superior Court faces as much as a \$3 million reduction or 15% of the \$19.7 million current operating budget. In light of such a drastic situation the court has had to quickly explore options for reducing costs. Due to the urgency of the situation, it was necessary to make difficult decisions. It has long been the court's intent to close the major operations of the Tulare division upon completion of the South County Justice Center currently under construction in Porterville. However, due to the significant budget reductions in fiscal year 2012-13, the Court concluded that closing the entire Tulare Division now would realize a significant and immediate cost savings and that consolidating these operations into the Visalia and Porterville divisions would improve efficiency.

Therefore, pursuant to Government Code section 68106, the Superior Court of Tulare County is hereby giving formal notice that the court facility in Tulare will close permanently effective August 31, 2012.

The Tulare County Superior Court has not taken this decision lightly and has spent many hours analyzing and exploring options for budget reductions. I speak on behalf of the Presiding Judge and the entire court

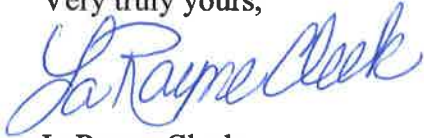
June 27, 2012

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when I say it is with great sadness and regret that we must reduce services available to the citizens of Tulare County. The court will make every effort to make the transition as seamless as possible and minimize the overall impact. A copy of the public notice that the court is posting in and about its facilities and on its website, and distributing to electronic subscribers is attached for your reference.

Very truly yours,



LaRayne Cleek  
Court Executive Officer

LC/daj

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Melinda M. Reed, Presiding Judge  
Hon. Lloyd Hicks, Assistant Presiding Judge





## **NOTICE OF COURT CLOSURE** **CLOSURE OF THE** **TULARE DIVISION**

Due to the fiscal crisis in the State of California the Tulare County Superior Court and other government agencies have been forced to closely examine all operations and expenditures and to evaluate cost efficiencies wherever possible. Despite the Tulare County Superior Court effectively practicing prudent fiscal planning and implementing effective cost cutting measures responsive to the budget reductions over the past several fiscal years, the 2012-13 fiscal year brings the most severe fiscal crisis the court has faced to date. The Tulare County Superior Court faces as much as a \$3 million reduction or 15% of the \$19.7 million current operating budget. In light of such a drastic situation the court has had to quickly explore options for reducing costs. Due to the urgency of the situation, it was necessary to make difficult decisions. It has long been the court's intent to close the major operations of the Tulare division upon completion of the South County Justice Center currently under construction in Porterville. However, due to the significant budget reductions in fiscal year 2012-13, the Court concluded that closing the entire Tulare Division now would realize a significant and immediate cost savings and that consolidating these operations into the Visalia and Porterville divisions would improve efficiency.

**Therefore, pursuant to Government Code section 68106(b), the Superior Court of Tulare County is hereby giving urgent notice that the court facility in Tulare will close effective August 31, 2012.**

The centralization of court services in the City of Visalia will provide the opportunity to reduce costs and improve operational efficiency. The Court will make every effort to minimize the overall impact and make the transition as seamless as possible. Any interested person or entity who wishes to comment may do so, in writing, by either of the following methods:

E-mail: [tcsccomments@tulare.courts.ca.gov](mailto:tcsccomments@tulare.courts.ca.gov)

OR

Correspondence: Tulare County Superior Court  
Attn: Administration  
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 303  
Visalia, CA 93291



# The Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE COURT

MICHAEL M. RODDY  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
Jury Commissioner

Post Office Box 122724  
San Diego, California 92112-2724  
(619) 450-5478

July 2, 2012

Ms. Debora Morrison  
Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

**Re: Notification Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106**

Dear Ms. Morrison:

Effective Monday, September 3, 2012, due to the severe and ongoing reductions imposed on the California judicial branch, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will implement the following reductions in hours of clerks' offices and closure of courtrooms and court services:

- All clerks' business offices of the San Diego Superior Court will be closed to the public each Friday at 12:00 noon. Our clerk's business offices currently close at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Business hours will be unaffected Monday through Thursday.
- Probate Court operations located at 325 S. Melrose Drive, Vista, will be consolidated and relocated to the Central Division Probate Court located at 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. Probate filings will no longer be accepted at the Vista Branch. All existing Probate cases will be transferred to the downtown Probate Court as of September 3, 2012.
- The Ramona court facility located at 1428 Montecito Road, Ramona, including its courtroom and clerk's office will close effective September 3, 2012. The Ramona Branch will no longer hold court or receive filings from the public at this location.
- One juvenile dependency courtroom located at 325 S. Melrose Drive, Vista will be closed and the judge assigned to this calendar will be reassigned within the North County Branch Court to another assignment, effective September 3, 2012.
- One civil and six criminal courtrooms in the downtown Central Division will be closed effective September 3, 2012. The judges assigned to these courtrooms will be reassigned to other duties within the Superior Court.

**Debora Morrison**  
**Notification Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106**  
**July 2, 2012**  
**Page 2 of 2**

As you are well aware, since 2007-08, the funding for the California judicial branch has been reduced by \$653 million. In addition, the 2012-13 state budget contains additional branch reductions of \$544 million. The cumulative effect in San Diego since 2007-08 will be a reduction in our operating revenue of approximately 25%.

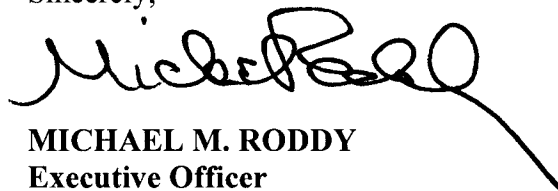
To address the cuts over the past four fiscal years, our court has implemented a number of reductions. We have previously reduced business operating hours in 2009, reduced staff through attrition and a voluntary separation program, reduced our operating expenses and technology expenses and implemented other wage and benefit reductions to limit the impact of our budget cuts on public access to our courts. However, with the latest round of cuts in the 2012-13 budget, we can no longer continue to operate without additional significant and permanent changes in our operations.

In addition to the reduced public hours in our clerks' business offices and courtroom closures, our budget reduction plans include layoffs and furloughs of court staff, further cuts in operating and technology expenses, and the closure of additional courtrooms by the beginning of FY 2013-14 when we expect further reductions in our local court budget. We estimate that by the beginning of FY 2013-14 we will need to reduce our current operating budget by \$40 million. These very difficult decisions being enacted by the court will enable us to meet this target.

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106, the public may submit comments regarding these changes. We have attached the public notices that will be posted throughout our facilities and posted to our court website ([www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)) to notify the public and court users of these proposed changes and the name and address where their comments can be directed.

We are available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have regarding these most unfortunate, but necessary actions that will erode the public's access to our San Diego court system.

Sincerely,



**MICHAEL M. RODDY**  
**Executive Officer**

**Attachments**

c: Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta, Presiding Judge  
Hon. David J. Daniels, Assistant Presiding Judge

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 & California Rule of Court 10.620)*

### **PROBATE COURT CONSOLIDATION**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice of the decision to close the North County Probate Courtroom and consolidate Probate Services in its North County Division with its Central Division Services.

Effective September 3, 2012, all Probate Court operations located at 325 Melrose Avenue, Vista, CA 92081 will be consolidated with and relocated to the Central Division Probate Court located at 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego CA 92101. This action is being taken due to unprecedented and ongoing state budget cuts enacted in Fiscal Years 2012/13 and 2013/14. These cuts are in addition to reductions incurred during the preceding four fiscal years. As a result, the Court is facing the most significant reduction of services in its history.

Pursuant to Government Code section §68511.7, the Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) (click on "*Invitation to Comment*").

For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
Attn: Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer  
220 West Broadway, Executive Office  
San Diego, CA 92101

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 & California Rule of Court 10.620)*

**CLOSURE OF NORTH COUNTY JUVENILE  
DEPENDENCY COURTROOM**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice of the decision to close one of its North County Juvenile Dependency courtrooms.

Effective September 3, 2012, one of the Juvenile Dependency courtrooms located at 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081 will be closed. This action is being taken due to unprecedented and ongoing state budget cuts enacted in Fiscal Years 2012/13 and 2013/14. These cuts are in addition to reductions incurred during the preceding four fiscal years. As a result, the Court is facing the most significant reduction of services in its history.

Pursuant to Government Code section §68511.7, the Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) (click on "*Invitation to Comment*").

For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
Attn: Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer  
220 West Broadway, Executive Office  
San Diego, CA 92101

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 & California Rule of Court 10.620)*

### **BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSURES**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice of the decision to close all of its business offices at noon every Friday.

Effective September 3, 2012, all clerks' business offices located at all San Diego Superior Court facilities will be closed to the public on Fridays starting at 12:00 noon. These partial closure days are not court holidays, so statutory deadlines will not be extended. However, drop boxes are currently provided outside clerical offices for filing papers or submitting payments, pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.210. This action is being taken due to unprecedented and ongoing state budget cuts. The San Diego Court has estimated that it faces as much as a \$14 million cut in funding for FY 2012-2013, and predicts the total cuts for fiscal year 2013-2014 could rise to \$40 million or more. These cuts are in addition to reductions incurred during the preceding four fiscal years. As a result, the Court is facing the most significant reduction of services in its history.

Pursuant to Government Code section §68511.7, the Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) (click on "*Invitation to Comment*").

For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
Attn: Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer  
220 West Broadway, Executive Office  
San Diego, CA 92101

# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 & California Rule of Court 10.620)*

### **CLOSURE OF CENTRAL COURTROOMS**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice of the decision to close six criminal courtrooms and one civil courtroom in its Central Division.

Effective September 3, 2012, six criminal courtrooms located at 220 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 and one civil courtroom located at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, will be closed. This action is being taken due to unprecedented and ongoing state budget cuts enacted in Fiscal Years 2012/13 and 2013/14. These cuts are in addition to reductions incurred during the preceding four fiscal years. As a result, the Court is facing the most significant reduction of services in its history.

Pursuant to Government Code section §68511.7, the Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) (click on "*Invitation to Comment*").

For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
Attn: Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer  
220 West Broadway, Executive Office  
San Diego, CA 92101



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

*(Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 & California Rule of Court 10.620)*

### **RAMONA COURT CLOSURE**

Pursuant to Government Code §68106 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is providing 60 days' notice of the decision to close the Ramona Courthouse.

Effective September 3, 2012, the Ramona court facility located at 1428 Montecito Road, Ramona CA, 92065 (including its courtroom and clerk's office) will close, and all case matters will be relocated to the East County Division Courthouse located at 250 East Main Street, El Cajon CA 92020. This action is being taken due to unprecedented and ongoing state budget cuts enacted in Fiscal Years 2012/13 and 2013/14. These cuts are in addition to reductions incurred during the preceding four fiscal years. As a result, the Court is facing the most significant reduction of services in its history.

Pursuant to Government Code section §68511.7, the Court is inviting public comment on this change prior to implementation. To ensure prompt review and consideration, comments should be submitted electronically through the Court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) (click on "*Invitation to Comment*").

For those without easy internet access, comments may be mailed to:

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
Attn: Michael Roddy, Court Executive Officer  
220 West Broadway, Executive Office  
San Diego, CA 92101





SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF KINGS

**AMENDED NOTICE OF LEMOORE  
COURT CLOSURE**

-o0o-

**NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN  
FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR  
AVAILABILITY AT LEMOORE  
COURT**

-o0o-

**NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN  
CLERKS' OFFICE SERVICE  
HOURS IN AVENAL, CORCORAN  
AND HANFORD**

The State of California is faced with a fiscal crisis which will have an impact on Court operations. All State Government Agencies have closely examined their operations and expenditures for evaluation of cost efficiencies where necessary.

The Kings County Superior Court has had prudent fiscal planning, effective operational cost cutting measures and revenue generating strategies. The Court now faces a budget deficit of approximately \$1.3 million in this fiscal year of 2012-2013, which started on July 1, 2012. This is the most severe fiscal crisis which the Court has had. Until the budget and its trailer bills were enacted, the Court was unable to determine the exact cuts which were to be made, but knew it would have to make some reduction in operations.

In light of our budget reductions, we had to quickly explore opportunities for reducing additional operational costs. Due to the urgency of these budget reductions, the judiciary has met numerous times to ascertain what other immediate cost savings need to occur. The Court concluded that there would be furloughs, layoffs, some salary freezes, a Court closure, reduction in service hours and transfers of some staff.

It was decided to close the Lemoore Branch Court to realize some additional savings and improve some operations. It was also determined that prior to the closure of the Lemoore

Court, Family Law Facilitator availability at that location should be limited in favor of services being offered at the Court's other facilities. Finally, it was determined by the judiciary that the public hours of the Clerks' Offices should be limited in a manner which presents the least amount of inconvenience to the public while at the same time offering cost-savings and administrative benefits to the Court.

During the next 60 days, the Kings County Superior Court will be working to transition and consolidate its operations from the Lemoore Court into its other locations. The Court believes that by consolidating operations into the Hanford and Corcoran Courts and implementing the other cost-savings measures discussed herein, efficiency and operational effectiveness will result to the benefit of all. The Court requests your patience during this transition period, and welcomes any comments you may have regarding the matter.

**Pursuant to the California Rules of Court, rule 10.620 and California Government Code Section 68016, the Superior Court of Kings County is hereby giving urgent notice that:**

1. **The Court in Lemoore will cease all operations effective September 10, 2012.** All matters and staff will be transferred to Hanford and Corcoran courthouses. The Superior Court will do its best in minimizing impact and try to ease the transition of service operations. Please work with the Court during these difficult times;

2. Beginning immediately and continuing until the cessation of such services due to the closure of the Lemoore facility, Family Law Facilitator services offered at that location will be reduced from two days per week to one. Family Law Court Facilitator services will be available on all other court days at the Court's Hanford or Corcoran locations; and,

3. **Effective September 12, 2012,** the public windows of the Clerks' Offices of the Kings County Superior Court, will be open as follows:

**Monday through Thursday**- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Friday**- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Documents may be deposited with the clerk's office by leaving them in a secured drop box located at each clerk's office. On days when Court is in session, documents left in a drop box prior to 4:30 p.m. will be deemed filed on the date of deposit. All documents deposited into the receptacle after 4:30 p.m., on a holiday, or on a court closure day will be deemed filed on the next day Court is open for business.

Any interested person or entity wishing to comment on the court's plan of action should direct the same to Todd H. Barton, Court Executive Officer at 1426 South Drive, Superior Court, Hanford, California, 93230.

You may also send your email to [tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov](mailto:tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov)

As required by the California Rules of Court, Rule 10.620 and California Government Code Section 68016, all public input received shall be provided to the person or persons making these very difficult decisions.





**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF KINGS**

**FAQ OF LEMOORE  
COURT CLOSURE AND  
OTHER COST-SAVING  
MEASURES**

The State's ongoing fiscal crisis has required all government agencies to closely examine their operations and expenditures. Over these years, the Kings County Superior Court has evaluated cost efficiencies and effectiveness, wherever necessary.

Despite the Kings County Superior Court's history of prudent fiscal planning, effective cost-cutting measures, and revenue generating strategies, the Court now faces an immediate deficit of approximately \$1.3 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2012.

The most severe fiscal crisis that the Court has ever faced is well beyond anything that could have been anticipated.

The Court had to explore numerous options for reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Additionally, our Judiciary has met many times and the Courts have communicated its budget deficit to Kings County and City of Lemoore officials. The urgency of the Courts budget deficit has caused the Judiciary and the Management to make numerous difficult decisions.

The Court concluded that closing the Lemoore branch court would realize a significant immediate cost savings. The Court believes that by consolidating some operations into the Hanford and Corcoran Courts and implementing the other cost-savings measures discussed herein, efficiency and operational effectiveness would be created which will supplement many other cuts.

**Pursuant to the California Government Code Section 68016 and California Rules of Court, rule 10.620, the Superior Court of Kings County is hereby giving urgent notice that the Lemoore Court will close effective September 10, 2012. Cases will be heard in Hanford for Attorney represented Family Law Litigants and in Corcoran for Family Law matters involving pro per litigants. Other measures may cause a delay in processing matters. In addition, effective immediately, Family Law Court Facilitator services offered at the Lemoore Court will be reduced from two days per week to one. Beginning September 12, 2012, the Court's Clerks' Offices, will close at 11:30 a.m. on Friday.**

The consolidation of Court services will provide the opportunity to improve operational efficiency for core court services. The Kings County Superior Court will do its best to minimize the operational impact and make the transition as easy as possible. Any interested person or entity who wishes to comment in writing may do so by any of the following methods:

E-mail: [tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov](mailto:tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov)

-OR-

Correspondence: ATTN: Court Executive  
1426 South Drive  
Hanford, CA 93230

As required by the California Rules of Court, Rule 10.620 and California Government Code Section 68016, all public input received shall be provided to the person or persons making these difficult decisions.

## **BRANCH COURT CONSOLIDATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: Why is the Kings County Superior Court closing the Lemoore Court?**

**A:** Recently, Governor Jerry Brown announced drastic funding reductions to the State's Judicial Branch and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). As a result, the Kings County Superior Court must absorb \$1.3 million in direct cuts and unfunded cost increases in the current fiscal year of 2012-2013.

This is in addition to the \$1 million in budget reductions that the court absorbed this past year and the Court expects to absorb a larger reduction next year. The Governor has noted that the state trial courts will suffer additional budget cuts in the 2013-14 Fiscal Year.

The legislation the Governor signed also included the provision for Courts to expend all their reserve fund balances no later than June 30, 2014. For your Superior Court, the monies saved over the years is projected to be \$1.4 million; money that the Court planned to use to operate through 2014 to retain staff and operational status quo. Despite the Superior Courts past careful fiscal planning, effective cost-cutting measures, and revenue-generating strategies, the Court now faces an immediate deficit of \$1.3 million in the 2012-13 Fiscal Year that started on July 1, 2012. This most severe fiscal crisis that the Court has ever faced is well beyond anything that could have been anticipated.

The Judiciary, management and staff of the Superior Court understands and regrets that closing the Lemoore branch court will result in inconveniences to our residents and other citizens doing business with this court.

The consolidation of many Court services may provide the Court with the opportunity to improve operational efficiency for core services. The Court seeks to continue exploring ways to utilize current technology to improve its operational effectiveness as well as access to the Court for all Kings County residents.

### **Q: How significant are the budget cuts in relation to the Court's budget?**

**A:** From fiscal year 2007-2008 to fiscal year 2012-2013, the Court has seen a reduction in its Trial Court Trust Fund allocation from \$7,970,000 to \$4,700,000, a 41% reduction. In past years some additional monies, however, have been made available from Courthouse Construction and Repair funds.

### **Q: When will the courts close?**

**A:** Time is of the essence. Due to compounding costs, the longer the Court waits, the more drastic the financial situation will become later in the 2012-13 Fiscal Year. The Lemoore Branch will cease operations September 10, 2012.

### **Q: How much will the closures save?**

**A:** Consolidating operations will save the Kings County Superior Court approximately \$90,000 to \$100,000 this year in overhead costs for: perimeter security, bailiff services, computers and printers, computer lines to the courthouse in Lemoore from Hanford, phones, copiers, messenger services, alarm systems, security cameras, facility cleaning equipment, supplies, mileage costs, etc. This decision may eventually result in savings in state facility funding for taxpayers, when the AOC will no longer be responsible for the maintenance of the facility.

### **Q: Why not close a few courtrooms in Hanford, Corcoran or Avenal locations?**

**A:** There are several reasons why this is not a good idea. The Kings County Superior Court has operated branch courts as a convenience to residents/litigants outside the Hanford area in an effort to maintain access to justice.



The Judiciary believes in a continued need for a west side presence in Avenal, especially due to its distance from Hanford and the I-5 corridor.

The Corcoran Court, while it meets the need of its residents, services three state prisons for arraignments and provides a Family Support Court.

The Court now needs to centralize all available judicial resources and personnel to meet the high demand for services from Kings County residents. Court staff will face a mandatory 27 days of unpaid furlough leave and some layoffs. Reduction of staff impacts Court and public services. The Family Law Court which now resides in Lemoore will be moved to Hanford and Corcoran without severe harm to the public.

**Q: How long have you known about these closures?**

**A:** The Governor's initial budget reductions were announced on May 14, 2012 but the actual budget bills were not signed until the last week in June. The California Judicial Council held a meeting to discuss the financial impact to the State's trial courts on May 17th, giving the Kings County Superior Court days to make budget reductions before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The Judges met frequently with key Management personnel to discuss operational reductions, potential closures, furloughs and layoffs.

There have been meetings with Kings County Officials and Avenal and Lemoore leadership. Due to the urgency of the situation and to maximize efficiency immediately, it is necessary to make difficult and drastic decisions quickly.

After numerous hours of debate and careful consideration of all cost-cutting measures, Court leaders arrived at the inevitable conclusion that closing the Lemoore Branch Court is one of the many necessary steps to maintain core operations in light of these staggering budget cuts.

The Court has opened a 60-day comment period to receive feedback on this matter and is very interested in hearing any suggestion for providing efficient services to all county residents, especially those in the areas served by the closing branch court. Anyone who wishes to submit a comment may do so via email to [tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov](mailto:tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov).

**Q: Where and how will the cases from these communities be heard?**

**A:** Family Law cases will be transferred to the Hanford and Corcoran courthouses. Primarily, attorney-represented Family Law matters will be heard in the Jury Assembly Room on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Primarily, Family Law Pro Per matters will be heard at the Courthouse in Corcoran all day Wednesdays. The litigants will be notified by letter of the location and time changes. Family Law Mediation will occur in Hanford Building "B", on the second floor outside of courtroom departments 1 and 2. The Family Law Facilitators will maintain the current hours in Hanford and Corcoran. Traffic payments previously taken in Lemoore will be processed in Hanford.

Closure of Lemoore will begin on September 10, 2012.

**Q: How can people in rural communities, many of whom are struggling financially, afford the added cost of travel to Hanford?**

**A:** At this time, traffic matters, civil and small claim matters and misdemeanor cases will remain heard in Avenal and Corcoran.

The Kings County Superior Court website offers information and access to many court forms. Residents may pay traffic tickets online and even contest traffic citations via a written Trial By Declaration (TBD). This process is outlined on the Court's website [ [www.kings.courts.ca.gov](http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov) ].



**Q: What other ways have you cut costs?**

**A:** In the past two years, the Court has frozen non-vital vacancies and operates with fewer staff positions, though the work volume remains the same. The Court also has experienced numerous reductions in operating costs. A mandatory furlough program was implemented in 2011-2012 requiring each employee to take 15 days of unpaid leave annually. For the 2012-13 Fiscal Year, employees will be required to take 27 days of unpaid furloughs.

Beyond reductions in personnel costs, the Court has realized other savings. Equipment purchases and travel for training that are not covered by grants have been reduced or suspended. Janitorial and security services have already been significantly reduced and will be decreased even more. Strategies for reducing toner, paper, and other office supplies have also been implemented to cut costs considerably.

**Q: How much of the Court's budget is staff salaries and will you cut them?**

**A:** For the 2012-13 Fiscal Year, 67% percent of the Court's general operating budget is for personnel costs. The Court has frozen all management salaries, all staff will experience an unpaid 27 days worth of furloughs, and there may be additional layoffs of line staff and possibly some managers. The Court hopes that many of these positions will come from natural attrition such as retirements or general leaves. The Court announced to its employees that there will be furloughs and/or staff layoffs.

**Q: Are you also reducing judicial pay?**

**A:** All Judicial pay is set by state statute and the California Constitution. Oversight and funding for your judges is at the sole jurisdiction of the California Constitution and State Legislature. As elected officials, their salaries cannot be reduced mid-term or without legislative authority. No such authority exists. Judges are paid directly by the State of California, reducing their pay would not realize any savings to local court operations, because judges are not paid locally from the Court's budget.

**Q: Will the closed courts ever reopen?**

**A:** Given the severity of the Court's fiscal situation, it is likely the Lemoore Courthouse will never reopen.

The proposed new Courthouse in Hanford, constructed by State Department of Finance Bonds is intended to eliminate the operation of the Lemoore Courthouse in FY 2015-2016. The County of Kings may have plans to facilitate a Library expansion at the Lemoore Courthouse in the future.

**Q: Will this affect juvenile cases?**

**A:** Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency matters will not be affected by the consolidations.

**Q: Will the closures increase the burden to Lemoore Police department in the affected communities?**

**A:** All Traffic payments will be moved to the Hanford Courthouse. As to contested citations, those matters have been heard in Hanford for the past 6 years. The Lemoore Police Department will not be affected. They will receive fewer calls from the Courts in Lemoore, when it pertains to courthouse break-ins, domestic disturbances in Court, illegal activities and illegal parking.

**Q: What will be the effect on county and community agencies?**

**A:** County and Community organizations may experience a decrease travel time and costs. The improved efficiency from consolidation operations into Hanford may also save them time, manpower and mileage. The Court will continue to explore ways to improve access to Court services through technology.

**Q: The closures will save money this year, but what about future years?**

**A:** The closure of the branch court will provide ongoing savings as will all the other strategies mentioned above. The Court will continue to look for additional ways to improve efficiency and cut costs.

**Q: Will the employees who work in these courts be laid off?**

**A:** As a cost-saving measure, the Court has not been filling vacancies unless required for vital operations. The employees in this court will not be laid off at this time. They will be transferred to Hanford and Corcoran.

**Q: Won't closing the Lemoore Branch Court create backlogs and delays at the Hanford and Corcoran courthouses?**

**A:** Yes. When the backlogs become unmanageable, the Court may be forced to reduce the clerks' office hours to allow staff to catch up.

**Q: Will public counter hours be reduced?**

**A:** Counter hours are from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., Mondays through Thursdays. Due to furloughs and layoffs, beginning on September 12, 2012, counter hours on Fridays will be from 8:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M.

But with the possibility of further budget cuts, or excessive backlogs, further reduction in hours are a possibility.

**Q: Can you break the lease or sell the Lemoore building?**

**A:** The Court does not own the facility in question. The facility is owned by the State of California in an agreement with the County. The AOC is still responsible for the Maintenance of the facility.

**Q: What if there are additional state budget cuts to the judicial branch in the future?**

**A:** The State budget crisis is not static. If deficits get worse, the Court will work to anticipate future circumstances and adapt as they evolve. Nothing is currently out of the question to allow the Court the ability to react quickly when and if needed.

**Q: Who can I contact to provide feedback?**

**A:** If you want to contact Todd Barton, the Court Executive Officer at the Superior Court, please email your comments to [tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov](mailto:tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov).

If you prefer to contact a State elected official, contact:

**Jerry Brown**

Governor

State Capitol Building, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814

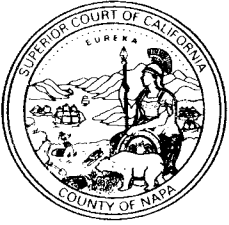
(916) 445-2841

gov.ca.gov 7

Or you may contact your newspaper or television channel.

Notice will also be posted on the Court's website, [www.kings.courts.ca.gov](http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov).

***We wish to thank the Fresno Superior Court for providing an outline to follow.***



## Superior Court of California County of Napa

### Judges

Diane M. Price  
Rodney G. Stone  
Francisca P. Tisher  
Raymond A. Guadagni  
Mark S. Boessenecker

### Commissioners

Michael S. Williams  
Monique Langhorne-  
Johnson

### Court Executive Officer

Richard D. Feldstein

July 11, 2012

Jody Patel  
Interim Administrative Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Patel:

In accordance with Government Code sections 68106 and 68108, the Napa Superior Court hereby provides notice of its intent to close its courthouses at 2:30 p.m. on Friday of each week beginning September 7, 2012, through the end of calendar year 2013. It also intends to close its courthouses for a full day on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve in December 2012 and 2013. As such and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with our represented employees, all staff will be furloughed during these closures as well as three other non-closure furlough days throughout the year. These actions are being taken in an effort to reduce court operations expenditures in response to the devastating effects of five straight years of trial court budget reductions by the State of California.

The court deeply regrets having to take these actions and only does so after exhausting all other alternatives to cope with multiple years of the statewide reductions to trial court funding. Since the beginning of the economic downturn in fiscal year 2008/09, the court has implemented between 9 and 12 staff furlough days each year, hiring freezes, and employee layoffs. In addition, it has reduced all supply and services expenditures to the bare minimum necessary to continue to operate. However, the state's unprecedented budget reductions announced and enacted after the state budget May revise of this year has made these actions necessary to continue to provide basic and necessary judicial services while continuing to function within our dramatically decreased funding level.

Please be assured that the court has chosen this course of action only after engaging in significant analysis and debate. Furthermore, we will continue to work closely with our local bar association and justice partners to take all reasonable actions necessary to lessen the

### Telephone

(707) 299-1100

### Historic Courthouse

825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559-3031  
FAX: (707) 299-1250

### Criminal Courthouse

1111 Third Street  
Napa, CA 94559-3001  
FAX: (707) 253-4673

### Juvenile Courthouse

2350 Old Sonoma Road  
Napa, CA 94559-3703  
(site address only –  
no mail delivery)

Jodi Patel  
Page 2 of 2  
July 11, 2012

impact of any such decisions on the community we serve. We sincerely hope that a statewide economic recovery will soon lead a reversal of these necessary measures.

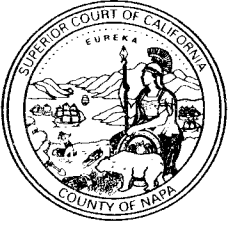
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Feldstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Richard D. Feldstein  
Court Executive Officer

rdf/crb

cc: Hon. Diane M. Price, Presiding Judge  
Hon. Rodney S. Stone, Assistant Presiding Judge



## Superior Court of California County of Napa

# NOTICE OF COURT CLOSURES

The State of California's fiscal crisis has caused all government agencies to closely examine all operations and expenditures, and to evaluate cost efficiencies and effectiveness, wherever necessary. Despite the Napa Superior Court's history of prudent fiscal planning, effective cost-cutting measures, and revenue generating strategies, the court now faces an immediate deficit of as much as \$2 million in fiscal year 2012-13, which started on July 1, 2012. Simply stated, this is the most severe fiscal crisis that the court has ever faced and well beyond anything that could have been anticipated.

In light of such a drastic situation, the court has had to quickly explore options for reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Due to the urgency of the situation, it was necessary to make difficult decisions quickly. The court concluded that by closing the court at 2:30 p.m. each Friday rather than 5:00 p.m., and for a full day on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, it would realize significant and immediate cost savings necessary to continue to operate within its severely reduced budget. These closures will begin on September 7, 2012, and continue through calendar year 2013.

Any interested person or entity who wishes to comment may do so in writing by either of the following methods:

E-mail: [courtinfo@napa.courts.ca.gov](mailto:courtinfo@napa.courts.ca.gov)

OR

Correspondence: Court Executive Office  
Napa Superior Court  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

