



AMANDA TOSTE
Court Executive Officer

Superior Court of California, County of Merced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2020

Merced Superior Court Increases Its Remote Judicial Proceedings As Part of Plan to Mitigate the Spread of the COVID-19

On March 17, 2020, the Merced Superior Court (Court) announced its plan to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, which included a number of court operational changes. On March 21, 2020 the Court announced further operational changes. Court administration has been carefully monitoring the advice of public, state and federal health officials regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the ongoing risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court will be updating its response by extending and expanding remote judicial proceedings to continue to protect the health and safety of our community.

The goal of the Merced Superior Court during this unprecedented situation is to protect the safety, health and welfare of court customers, jurors and staff. To this end, we request that individuals refrain from visiting the Court whenever possible. The Court remains open for specific case types that have been determined to be essential matters. The clerk's offices will continue to be closed to the public, excluding essential filings limited to, restraining orders, emergency petitions and emergency ex-parte requests. Please see the clerk's office closure notice on our website www.mercedcourt.org for detailed hours and drop box locations.

Those feeling ill and experiencing flu-like symptoms, have a fever or cough, should not come to the courthouse.

If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney prior to coming to court to determine whether you need to appear at court. In most instances, your attorney can appear for you. All attorneys continue to be required to appear remotely as per General Order #2020-05. If you are not represented and have not been contacted by the Court, please call the respective clerk's office for further information. Call (209) 725-4100 for a full directory listing. Telephones will be answered Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you absolutely feel that you need to come to a court facility, the information below describes what you can expect when you arrive.

Only individuals having business with the Court should come to court. Please do not bring any friends or family with you; they will not be able to attend the court proceeding and will not be permitted inside the buildings.

The decision for all of the measures taken thus far was not made lightly. The Court remains committed to serving the people of Merced County and while the above measure may result in inconvenience, the Court's overriding responsibility is to the health and safety of jurors, litigants, courthouse visitors, attorneys, justice partners and court staff. These measures are being taken to exercise the precautions necessary to maintain the safety and welfare of those who visit the courthouse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of the public and our justice partners during these challenging times.

The Court will continue to monitor and assess the situation and update its COVID-19 Information page on the Court's website as circumstances evolve.

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