



Superior Court of the State of California
In and For The County of Placer
Roseville, California

COURT ADMINISTRATION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

POSTED AND FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2021

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**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PLACER COUNTY ANNOUNCES
UPDATED ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS
UPDATED FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

The Superior Court of Placer County is announcing changes to its operations due to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 cases have seen a significant decline in the past four weeks ending with February 8, 2021 in Placer County, the Greater Sacramento Region, and the State. For Placer County, the seven-day average case rate has declined from around 50 cases per 100,000 people at the start of 2021 to 15 cases per 100,000 people as of February 8, 2021. Hospitalizations and cases in the ICU have also been on a significant downward trend, showing a reduction in hospitalizations due to COVID-19 from roughly 200 patients in Placer County hospitals at the start of 2021 to just under 70 earlier this week. Similarly, the number of individuals in intensive care in Placer County hospitals has declined by roughly half, from 29 to 14.

Although Placer County remains in the purple “widespread” tier of restrictions, the reduced transmission rate is encouraging, and the court has conducted a reassessment of the service changes made due to COVID-19.

The court continues to balance its obligations to provide access to justice with the need to protect the health of the public, parties, attorneys and justice agency staff entering our courthouses, along with the health and safety of our judicial officers, employees, and court security.

Based on these factors, the court is announcing the following changes to service levels:

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Effective February 16, 2021:

- Jury trials will resume for criminal and civil cases. Court trials will still be heard.
- Misdemeanor out-of-custody hearings will resume and be heard, including driving under the influence and domestic violence cases. This does not include traffic misdemeanor cases, which are addressed below.
- The court will postpone all traffic infraction and non-traffic infraction pre-trial and post-trial matters set November 23, 2020 through February 28, 2021 to an available date at least 16 weeks from the currently scheduled court date. This includes all pay or appear dates for traffic infractions.
- The court will postpone all traffic misdemeanor pre- and post-trial hearings set November 23, 2020 through February 28, 2021 to an available date at least 16 weeks from the currently scheduled court date.
- The court will postpone all traffic infraction and non-traffic infraction trials set November 23, 2020 through February 28, 2021 to an available date at least 12 weeks from the currently scheduled court date.
- Family centered case resolution six-month and twelve-month conferences set November 23, 2020 through March 31, 2021 will be dropped from calendar. All 18-month family centered case resolution conferences will remain on calendar.
- Family law mandatory settlement conferences will proceed by mandatory video appearance through February 28, 2021. Parties unable to appear via remote technology must request an in-person appearance ([PL-FL029 Personal Appearance Request Form](#)), subject to judicial approval. Please see the court's remote appearance website for more details: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>.
- Family law trials and other matters set from the family law trial assignment calendar, excluding contempt proceedings and matters involving domestic violence, will proceed by mandatory video appearance for matters set November 23, 2020 through February 28, 2021. Parties are required to upload all evidence to the court's evidence sharing platform prior to their court date. Parties unable to appear via remote technology must request an in-person appearance ([PL-FL029 Personal Appearance Request Form](#)), subject to judicial approval. Please see the court's remote appearance website for more details: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>.
- There is no change to the mandate for remote appearances in most family law non-trial matters.
- All small claims cases will continue to be held by video appearance through at least March 31, 2021. Parties unable to appear via remote technology must request an in-person appearance ([PL-CV014 Personal Appearance Request Form](#)), subject to judicial approval. Parties are required to upload all evidence to the court's evidence sharing platform prior to

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their court date. Please see the court's remote appearance website for more details:
<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>.

- Civil settlement conferences will continue to be held by video appearance through at least March 31, 2021. Parties unable to appear via remote technology must request an in-person appearance ([PL-CV014 Personal Appearance Request Form](#)), subject to judicial approval. Please see the court's remote appearance website for more details:
<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>.
- Although the court removed the mandate for remote appearances in most civil and probate hearings effective October 1, 2020, remote appearances in these hearing types will remain **strongly encouraged**. Remote appearances are still required in family law and certain other civil and probate hearing types. Please see the Court's Emergency Local Rules for details:
<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-local-rules.shtml>.
- Juvenile justice and juvenile dependency matters will continue to be heard primarily through remote appearances. Please check with your attorney for further information.

Changes Effective February 22, 2021:

- Evening video traffic court will begin and be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Details of this new program, made possible through one-time COVID Backlog funding, will be announced on February 16, 2021.

Changes Effective March 1, 2021:

- Family law settlement conferences, family law trials, and other family law matters assigned from the trial assignment calendar will return to default in-person appearance. Parties may request a remote appearance. More information will be posted later this month to the court's remote appearance website: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>.
- Traffic infraction and traffic misdemeanor hearings and trials resume and will be heard.
- Saturday traffic court will begin on the first Saturday of the month. Details of this new program, made possible through one-time COVID Backlog funding, will be announced on February 16, 2021.
- *Traffic Ticket: Quick Off-Ramp* an alternative program for individuals with a good DMV record. This temporary program was developed to help respond to the backlog of cases created by the pandemic. Full details to be announced on February 16, 2021.

General Announcements:

The court reminds individuals with pending traffic citations of the following options to address their pending matters:

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- Online Traffic Payments: Individuals may pay their fines online via the court's website at <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/division-traffic-main.shtml>.
- Online Traffic Hearings: Beginning February 23, 2021, the court will offer evening traffic court each Tuesday and Thursday. Details will be announced on February 16, 2021. See the court's website for how to sign up on or after February 16, 2021.
- *Traffic Ticket: Quick Off-Ramp* – Launching March 1, 2021, an alternative program for individuals with a good DMV record. See the court's website for more information on or after February 16, 2021.
- Ability to Pay: Anyone who is unable to pay their traffic fine may complete and submit Judicial Council Form TR-320 (<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/tr320.pdf>) to the Court.
- Request a Trial by Written Declaration: Individuals may request that their trial proceed by written declaration. Please see <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/division-traffic-main.shtml> for more information.
- Sign Up for Traffic School: Individuals may choose to participate in traffic school. Please visit <https://webportal.placerco.org/eCourtPublic/> for more information and to determine if your case is eligible.

The court will continue to hear all felony, family law, and civil hearings as currently set.

In addition to the above, the following additional restrictions remain in effect:

- Remote appearance is available, upon request, for most pre-trial criminal hearings. Remote appearance for preliminary hearings is subject to judicial approval.
- eDelivery is **mandatory** in family law and civil cases for attorneys and represented parties. Unrepresented parties are encouraged to use the eDelivery system. For more information on eDelivery and how to use the eDelivery system, please visit <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/online-edelivery-access.shtml>.
 - The court anticipates moving to a new eFiling system in late March 2021. Please watch the court's website for updates.
- The State Department of Public Health has mandated face coverings for anyone entering a public building, including courthouses. Physical distancing protocols have been implemented in the courthouses.
- The court's Self-Help Center has discontinued most in-person services. Please visit the Self-Help Center page on our website to schedule a telephone or video appointment. The court has added limited in-person services for landlord-tenant matters on a temporary basis. The court has also introduced a live chat pilot on its website. Please check the court's website for service hours: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/self-help-lhc.shtml>.

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- Modified practices remain in effect for those called to jury service. For more information, please visit:
http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/public_notice/COVID/FAQ%20Jury%20Duty.pdf

The court reminds members of the public that they should only come to the courthouse for official court business or to observe a court hearing. The court continues to strongly discourage individuals who do not have an active role in court hearings from attending court at this time. However, court proceedings will remain open to the public and media who choose to attend, subject to capacity limits.

If you believe you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, or if you are subject to quarantine due to close contact with someone who has COVID-19, please contact the Court Clerk's Office at 916-408-6000 for further information. If you have an attorney, contact your attorney first before calling the court. Defendants who have posted bail are encouraged to discuss their bail with their attorney and bail bonding company.

For information on specific cases, please visit the court's website or call 916-408-6000.