



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

COURT ADMINISTRATION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PLACER COUNTY ANNOUNCES
UPDATED ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS
UPDATED: JULY 9, 2020**

On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-33-20 (Governor's Order) and ordered "all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed...".

The Court initiated changes to its operations on March 9 and continued to reduce services and operations through early-April 2020. Although services and operations were reduced, the Court continued to remain open, as part of the State's critical infrastructure.

Beginning May 11, 2020, the Court began to increase its operations. Over the six weeks that followed, the Court took a deliberate and measured approach to restoring operations to provide access to justice while balancing public health concerns. By June 15, 2020, the Court had returned to hearing nearly all types of cases, although with modified practices. The Court indicated to the public that it would continue to monitor the public health emergency and make any necessary changes to operations that may be warranted.

The rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks prompted a review of services offered by the court. In light of a more than 60% increase in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, the Placer Superior Court consulted with the Placer County Public Health Officer to discuss metrics for the court to monitor in its efforts to remain informed and continue to balance its delivery of services with the need to minimize health risks to the public, court users, court staff, and judicial officers. The Court identified the 14-day case rate and 3-day change in hospitalization rate as the primary factors to consider in its decision-making, based on these conversations and review of pertinent information from national and State public health agencies.

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On July 7, 2020, the Placer County Public Health Officer reported that the County surpassed the benchmarks used by the State Department of Public Health for the 14-day case rate and three-day average hospitalizations. Specifically, that Placer has surpassed more than 100 cases per 100,000 population and had a three day average change of hospitalizations of more than 10% (101 per 100,000 and 47% respectively, as reported on July 7, 2020).

The Public Health Officer further cautioned Placer County residents that it was likely that Placer County would be placed on the California Department of Public Health's "watch list" for potential roll back to a more restrictive stage of California Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience due to the county's change in hospitalization and ICU rates.

In light of these factors, effective **July 13, 2020 through August 28, 2020**, the court will be postponing all traffic infraction and non-traffic infraction matters for sixteen weeks. In addition, the court will be postponing all traffic misdemeanor pre and post-trial hearings set in Departments 30 and 14 for sixteen weeks. All traffic infraction and non-traffic infraction trials will be postponed at least eight weeks. Traffic misdemeanor trials and all driving under the influence matters will be heard as set.

Individuals with pending traffic citations do have the following options to address their pending matters:

- Online Traffic Payments: Individuals may pay their fines online via the court's website at <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/online-case-access.shtml>.
- Request a Trial By Written Declaration: Individuals may request that their trial proceed by written declaration. Requests can be made online at <https://webportal.placerco.org/eCourtPublic/>.
- 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.
- 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.

In addition, **effective July 20, 2020** all small claims hearings will be held remotely. All parties will be required to appear by video and submit their evidence electronically to the opposing party and the court using the court's remote appearance and evidence sharing website (<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>). Parties may request an in person appearance, subject to judicial approval. The Court's Local Rules will be amended effective July 20, 2020 to reflect this change in requirement.

The following additional restrictions remain in effect:

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- Remote appearance is required for most civil, probate, and family law hearings, excluding trials. Please see the court's Emergency Local Rules for details.
- 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 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 all in-person services. Please visit the Self-Help Center page on our website to schedule a telephone or video appointment. Self-Help will only assist with matters currently being heard by the court.
- 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/QAJury%20Duty_Eff.%205%2028%202020.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. Court proceedings will remain open to the media.

If you believe you are sick, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, 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 the bail issues with their attorney and the bail bonding company.

The court will continue to monitor the key metrics noted above and continue to consult with public health officials. The court will make further adjustments to services, whether to add or restrict, based on changes in the public health crisis and/or other relevant circumstances.