

## Alternatives to Going to Court for a Court Hearing

In legal terms, a change in a hearing date to a date in the future is called a “continuance” of the hearing. If the parties to a case are in agreement, it is more likely that the court will agree to change the hearing date. Even if the other party does not agree, you may still contact the court to request a continuance of the hearing date.

*In order to protect the public’s health and safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Los Angeles County Superior Court has ordered the suspension of any and all Criminal and Civil jury or non-jury trials including Unlawful Detainer trials until further notice. All courtrooms will temporarily remain closed for judicial business except for specified time-sensitive, essential functions. All other matters have been continued by the Court. The parties shall receive further notice stating the specific time and date of the continuances in their cases. Information regarding the court’s current operations is updated and posted on the Los Angeles County Superior Court website. For complete details and updates regarding the court continuances and to review the public notices and court orders regarding temporary emergency changes to the Los Angeles County Superior Court’s operations, click here <https://www.lacourt.org/>*

*Depending on the type of case, information regarding continuances by the court and the new court hearing dates may be available on the court’s website. To review publicly available information on the Los Angeles County Superior Court’s website regarding a civil, criminal, family law, probate or small claims case, click here <https://www.lacourt.org/website/FindaCase.aspx>*

**Step 1:** If you have health concerns or other constraints and need to change an upcoming court hearing date, first contact the other party and ask for an agreement that the hearing date will be changed.

**Step 2:** If you are still required to attend a court hearing, there is an option to request a telephone appearance. Some courtrooms allow people to attend hearings by telephone or video. The court refers to attendance by phone as a “remote appearance”. Each courtroom that allows appearances by telephone has specific guidelines that the parties must follow. Prior to arranging to appear via telephone or video, please review the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Courtroom Information (if any)

<http://www.lacourt.org/courtroominformation/ui/search.aspx?ons=xcivil> for the courtroom to which your case is assigned. There may be specific and important conditions associated with appearances by telephone or video. Some courts may require that you file and serve the **FL-670 Request for Telephone Appearance**. You may also contact your courtroom directly to ask about specific requirements for a telephone appearance.

All telephone appearances are arranged by an independent vendor, CourtCall. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, CourtCall reduced the telephonic appearance fee to \$54 for telephone appearances newly scheduled on and after March 19, 2020 and to occur prior to April 30, 2020. IF POSSIBLE PLEASE VERIFY WITH YOUR COURT THAT YOUR HEARING IS STILL GOING FORWARD

BEFORE SCHEDULING WITH COURT CALL. Use online scheduling if possible.

[https://app.courtcall.com/reg\\_selector.aspx](https://app.courtcall.com/reg_selector.aspx) Live agents are only taking orders for same day or next day hearings. Call 888-882-6878 during business hours (Monday – Friday, 4:30 AM – 5:25 PM Pacific Time (PST/PDT) to speak to a representative. For first time users, you must complete the online registration process before contacting CourtCall.

Send requests for later dates or inquiries to [Assist@CourtCall.com](mailto:Assist@CourtCall.com) . Please include the date of the hearing on the email subject line and include the following information: time, appearance type, court name (“Los Angeles Superior Court”), Judge name/Department, case name, case number, party represented, and appearing attorney/party name. Do not include credit card information.

If you have been granted a fee waiver (**FW-003 Order on Court Fee Waiver or FW-003-GC Order on Court Fee Waiver**), CourtCall will waive the telephone appearance fee only if you provide CourtCall a copy of the fee waiver order. If you do not have a fee waiver order then you must provide CourtCall with a credit card number at the time of online registration. For more information regarding the CourtCall fee schedule, check CourtCall’s “Participating Courts List” at <https://courtcall.com/participating-courts/>.