

## What Services are Available at L.A. Superior Court?

In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, orders have issued from the State of California, Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles, as well as from the Chief Justice of the California Courts, and the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court leading to some confusion over what court services are available at the Los Angeles County courts.

Here is a summary of available services in Los Angeles County Courthouses, updated through March 24, 2020:

### General Information About Court Access

As of March 23, 2020, **the clerk's offices at all 38 courthouses in Los Angeles County are closed** until further notice. Services will be transitioned to telephonic and remote solutions. Most courthouses will be **open for time-sensitive, essential court hearings and matters**. Access to any and all Los Angeles County Courthouses is restricted to Judges, Commissioners, court staff and authorized persons through June 22, 2020. The Spring Street, Beverly Hills and Catalina courthouses are closed until further notice.

### Unlawful Detainer Trials

Unlawful detainer trials are suspended until further notice.

The City of Los Angeles issued a **moratorium on evictions** for non-payment of rent for tenants who are unable to pay rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances may include:

1. Loss of income due to work place closure or reduced hours due to COVID-19
2. Loss of income or child care expenditures due to school closures
3. Health care expenditures stemming from COVID-19 infection of the tenant or a member of the tenant's household who is ill with COVID-19
4. Reasonable expenditures stemming from government ordered emergency measures.
5. For more information on the City of Los Angeles moratorium on evictions go here: <https://hcidla.lacity.org/covid-19-eviction-moratorium>

### Civil actions:

**All civil jury or non-jury trials** are suspended until further notice.

**Civil Temporary Restraining Orders, Emergency Protective Orders and Civil Ex Parte Proceedings** are still being heard, however access is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020 (in other words, don't bring your whole family with you if you have a hearing – just you!)

Check to see if you can make a **telephonic appearance** instead of appearing in person. See *Alternatives to Going to Court for a Hearing* (put link here)

### **Family Law Matters:**

**Family Temporary Restraining Orders, Ex Parte Proceedings and Hague Convention** (International kidnapping) hearings are still being heard, however access is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.

Check to see if you can make a **telephonic appearance** instead of appearing in person. See *Alternatives to Going to Court for a Hearing* (put link here)

### **Probate Matters:**

**Probate Ex Parte Hearings, Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Conservatorship and Probate Emergency Petitions for Temporary Guardianship** are still being heard, however access is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.

Check to see if you can make a **telephonic appearance** instead of appearing in person. See *Alternatives to Going to Court for a Hearing* (put link here)

### **Writs**

**Petitions for Writ Seeking Emergency Relief in Misdemeanor, Limited Civil and Infractions, Emergency Writs Challenging COVID-19 Emergency Measures and Writs of Habeas Corpus Challenging Medical Quarantines** are still being heard, however access is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.

Check to see if you can make a **telephonic appearance** instead of appearing in person. See *Alternatives to Going to Court for a Hearing* (put link here)

### **Juvenile Matters**

There has been a **full and complete temporary public closure of the Sylmar Juvenile Court** for three (3) days (issued March 23, 2020)

**Juvenile Ex Parte Orders, Emergency Orders Relating to the Health and Safety of a Child, Juvenile Restraining Orders, Juvenile Delinquency Detention Hearings and related case processing, Juvenile Dependency Detention Hearings and related case processing, and Juvenile Arraignments/Detention Hearings: Adjudication and Disposition** are still being heard, however access is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.

Check to see if you can make a **telephonic appearance** instead of appearing in person. See *Alternatives to Going to Court for a Hearing*:

<http://www.lalawlibrary.org/pdfs/AMENDED%20Updated%20How%20to%20Attend%20Your%20Court%20Hearing%20by%20Phone.pdf>

## **Mental Health Matters**

**Riese Hearings, Judicial Commitments for Dangerous Persons Based on Mental Health Conditions, and Proceeding Under Langerman-Petris-Short (LPW)** are still being heard, however access to the court is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.

## **Criminal Matters**

Effective March 23, 2020, **Criminal and Civil cases are delayed for the next 60 days** while prioritizing Bail Review hearings.

**All criminal jury or non-jury trials are suspended until further notice.**

**There is a 90 day continuance of any and all status and progress reports.**

**There is a 90 day continuance of any and all criminal misdemeanor cases in which a defendant is not in jail.**

**Bail Review hearings for misdemeanor and felony pretrial detainees will have PRIORITY for the next 60 days.**

**Search Warrants, Arraignments, Criminal Preliminary Hearings, Criminal Ex Parte Hearings, Bail Bond and Cash Bail Processing, Criminal Mental Competency Hearings, Criminal Sentencing Proceedings, Criminal Post-Sentencing Proceedings, Grand Jury Indictments, Parole and Post-Release Community Supervision Hearings** are still being heard, however access to the court is limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses, and authorized persons through June 22, 2020.