

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic:
Information About Criminal and Juvenile Appellate Cases
in the Fourth District Court of Appeal and Beyond
— May 2021 —**

[California Judicial Branch COVID-19 News Center](#)

[Court Emergency Orders](#) -- Statewide, Supreme Court, Appellate Courts, trial court orders.

[Court Services and Operations](#) -- Information from all counties throughout state, updated every two weeks.

[California Rules of Court](#)

[Appendix I](#), Emergency Rules 1-13 related to COVID-19: Criminal, Civil, and Juvenile Court.

[Superior Courts](#)

[Imperial County Superior Court](#): as of May 10, 2021, all hearings in the courtrooms at the El Centro Courthouse will be in person, except those hearings allowed by the Rules of Court. [Plan to Restore Court Services](#), released March 22, 2021; [COVID-19 Press Releases](#). Most recent [Judicial Council Order #6](#), issued 12/22/2020.

[Inyo County Superior Court](#): reduced operations [lifted](#) May 13, 2020. Most recent [Judicial Council Order #4](#), issued 12/14/2020 extending time for criminal trials. Jury trials held at the Independence Courthouse. Jury orientation and hardships will be conducted virtually by Zoom or by phone.

[Orange County Superior Court](#): open with limited services; [on-line scheduling tool](#); [criminal and traffic matters](#) page. View [Courtroom Live Stream](#) through YouTube. Most recent [Judicial Council Order #19](#), issued 04/22/2021, regarding dependency custody.

[Riverside County Superior Court](#): [limited public services](#) available; some court houses closed: Hemet and Moreno Valley Courthouses. Effective March 1, 2021, superior court has resumed jury trials. [Jury Service Information](#). [Master Plan To Restore Court Services](#). Criminal case [FAQs](#), March 30, 2021. Most recent [Judicial Council Order #25](#), issued 04/26/2021, extending time for felony

arraignment and criminal trial.

[San Bernardino County Superior Court](#): currently gradually [re-opening with modified services and reduced hours](#). The court resumed jury trials on February 16, 2021. [Roadmap](#) to Pandemic Operations – Jury Services. Most recent [Judicial Council Order #14](#), issued 04/15/2021, extending time for criminal trial. [General Order of Presiding Judge](#) issued on 08/18/2020.

[San Diego County Superior Court](#): open for most business operations and [services](#), though in-person services are limited; [updated April 16, 2021, the court issued a pamphlet](#) describing available services. [Criminal case FAQs](#); most out-of-custody hearings are held remotely. [Jury trials](#) in both criminal and civil cases resumed February 2021. Most recent [Judicial Council Order #32](#), issued 05/06/2021 extending time for criminal trial.

[Fourth District Court of Appeal](#)

The clerk's offices in all three divisions remain open with limited services.

[Emergency Clarifying Order](#), filed April 9, 2020, grants an automatic 30-day extension for any act permitted or required by the California Rules of Court, when the deadline occurs between March 19, 2020, through and including April 18, 2020. On April 15, 2020, the Presiding Justice issued another [implementation order](#) renewing the extension for all deadlines occurring between April 19, 2020 to and including May 18, 2020.

[Misc. Order 041420](#) continues suspension of in-person oral argument presentation. Remote argument occurs on the BlueJeans platform.

With respect to oral argument, the court reminds counsel of [Remote Appearance Etiquette](#) and encourages use of appropriate background, either real or [virtual](#), and professional attire.

If counsel is ill and unable to appear by video, but still able to argue the case, arrangements can be made for teleconference argument.

California Supreme Court

The clerk's office is open.

[Oral argument](#), in which counsel will appear remotely, will occur in San Francisco. There is a [standing order](#) about social distancing for observers in the courtroom. Remote argument occurs on the BlueJeans platform. A [third standing order](#) gives counsel a two minute allotment of uninterrupted opening argument.

[TrueFiling](#) is expanded to briefs on the merits in review-granted cases and related filings. *Paper copies should not be submitted.*

[Emergency Clarifying Order](#), filed April 10, 2020, grants an automatic 30-day extension for any act required in the Supreme Court by the California Rules of Court, when the deadline occurs between March 20, 2020, through and including April 20, 2020.

Federal courts for Fourth District cases

United States District Court, [Southern District of California](#)

United States District Court, [Central District of California](#)

United States District Court, [Eastern District of California](#)

United States Court of Appeals for the [Ninth Circuit](#)

United States Supreme Court

Building is closed to the public, but it is open for business.

[Order filed March 19, 2020](#), inter alia, extends the deadline by which to file a petition for writ of certiorari to 150 days from the date of the lower court judgment, order denying discretionary review, or order denying a timely petition for rehearing. See Rules 13.1 and 13.3. The order remains in effect until further order of the court.

COVID-19 [Announcements](#).

COVID-19 and CDCR

[COVID-19 Information Page](#).

Governor's executive order [N-36-20](#), issued March 24, 2020. This order, inter alia, suspends intake into CDCR and DJJ facilities for 30 days. It directs the Board of Parole Hearings to suspend in-person parole hearings and to develop videoconferencing for these hearings.

[Intake](#) of prisoners sentenced to serve their sentences in state prison has been [intermittent since the Pandemic began](#). Most recently, limited intake of prisoners resumed January 11, 2021.

CDCR [updates](#). CDCR is [Reopening](#). Here is the [Roadmap](#).

CDCR resumed [limited visiting](#) on [April 10, 2021](#). CDCR has also hosted limited [video](#) visiting through the [Webex platform](#). [DJJ](#) resumed visitation at all facilities on April 10, 2021.

[Vaccination clinics](#) have started at most institutions.

CDCR Secretary Ralph Diaz and federal Receiver J. Clark Kelso recorded [a Vimeo video](#) discussing releases, positive programming credits (07/20/2020), and an update on COVID-19 response efforts. Secretary Ralph Diaz [retired](#) on [September 30, 2020](#). [Kathleen Allison](#) became the new Secretary on October 1, 2020.

Other California Appellate Projects

[FDAP Pandemic Information and Resources](#)

[CAP-LA COVID-19 page](#)

[CCAP COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[Project websites](#)

California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response