

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

**California Judicial Branch News Stream**

[Court Emergency Orders](#) – Statewide, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and 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](#): effective December 9, 2020, all matters returned to [remote](#) appearance. [COVID-19 General Orders](#) by Imperial County Superior Court; Judicial Council [Emergency Order #6](#), issued December 22, 2020, extending jury trial deadlines. There are some in-person hearings, ordered by the judge handling the hearing on a case-by-case basis. Defendants, litigants, or witnesses can email court to obtain remote hearing information: court@imperial.courts.ca.gov.

[Inyo County Superior Court](#): reduced operations [lifted](#) May 13, 2020. Judicial Council [Emergency Order #4](#), issued December 14, 2020, extending jury trial deadlines. [2021 Calendar](#).

[Orange County Superior Court](#): open with limited services; [on-line scheduling tool](#); [criminal and traffic matters](#) page. Judicial Council [Emergency Order #14](#), issued December 31, 2020, extending dependency detention hearings, and [Emergency Order #15](#), issued January 7, 2021, extending criminal arraignment and jury trial deadlines.

[Riverside County Superior Court](#): [limited public services](#) available; [temporary closures](#) from August 10, 2020 until further notice. [Master Plan To Restore Court Services](#). Criminal case [FAQs](#). Judicial Council [Emergency Order #20](#), issued December 17, 2020, extending jury trial deadlines, and [Emergency Order #21](#), issued January 7,

2021, extending criminal arraignment deadlines and allowing remote sessions at correctional and juvenile detention facilities.

[San Bernardino County Superior Court](#): currently gradually [re-opening with modified services](#) and reduced hours. Judicial Council [Emergency Order #10](#), issued December 15, 2020, extending jury trial deadlines. See also [General Order of Presiding Judge Michael Sachs](#), issued November 13, 2020. Effective [December 1, 2020](#), hours of operation of clerk's offices at all court locations are reduced.

[San Diego County Superior Court](#): open for most business operations and [services](#), though in-person services are limited; most hearings are virtual. Jury trials resumed October 2020. (See p. 22 of [services](#) guide.) Judicial Council [Emergency Order #22](#), issued December 22, 2020, extending arraignment deadlines, and [Emergency Order #23](#), issued January 7, 2021, extending jury trial deadlines. Criminal case [FAQs](#).

### [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 032020-B](#) suspends in-person oral arguments.

[Misc. Order 041420](#) continues suspension of in-person oral argument presentation. Remote argument in Division One occurs on the WebEx platform. Remote argument in Divisions Two and Three occur 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 Preparedness](#) page, helpful links on upper left side.

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 from four counties, only to two Reception Centers – at North Kern State Prison and Wasco State Prison, began on a limited manner the week of May 26, 2020. Intake was then halted shortly thereafter. New, limited re-opening began the week of August 24, 2020. [Intake was again suspended](#) on November 26, 2020.

CDCR and DJJ have [canceled normal visiting](#) until further notice. It has hosted limited [video visiting](#) through the [Webex platform](#).

[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, and an update on COVID-19 response efforts. Secretary Ralph Diaz has retired October 1, 2020; [Kathleen Allison](#) has been named Secretary effective 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**