

**Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County resumes Self-Help Center telephone service, orders release of additional persons from Santa Rita Jail, and further continues trials in conformance with Chief Justice's Statewide Order.

The Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) is pleased to announce that, despite this period of public Court closure, it has resumed telephonic Self-Help services. Staff from the Court's Self-Help Center locations are now available to assist customers by telephone Monday through Thursday from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. The Self-Help Center can be reached at (510) 272-1393. The Court also continues to develop alternate remote Self-Help options, including a Live Chat service it hopes to deploy the week of March 30, 2020. The Court will provide further information once Live Chat and other services are available.

The Court also announces that today, March 25, 2020, the Court's Presiding Judge, Hon. Tara M. Desautels, issued a [General Order](#) authorizing the citation and release of certain low-risk offenders arrested for failing to appear at previously scheduled court dates. These released individuals are ordered to appear 8 weeks from their current arrest dates and are ordered to contact or meet with their service providers in the intervening weeks.

This March 25 Order follows the March 20, 2020, [General Order](#) that Judge Desautels previously issued releasing 8 persons from the Santa Rita County Jail who were deemed "vulnerable" due to age or health concerns, as well as the March 19 [General Order](#) which released 247 persons.

These Orders have all been issued with the specific intent to maximize the Court's efforts to protect the health and safety of those who work within and interact with the Court while also balancing any potential risks to the community. These Orders have been issued upon the joint request of the Alameda County District Attorney, Public Defender, and Defense Bar, and were made in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proclamations of states of emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom and President Donald Trump, the Alameda County Public Health Officer's March 16, 2020, Shelter in Place Order, Executive Order N-33-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 19, 2020, the Advisory on COVID-19 and Court Operations issued by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye on March 20, 2020, the March 22, 2020 Major Disaster Declaration for California by President Trump, and the Statewide Order issued by Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye on March 23, 2020.

As to the latter, on Monday, March 23, 2020, Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council of California, issued a Statewide Order suspending or continuing all jury trials for a period of 60 days, i.e., through May 22, 2020. In response to the Alameda County Shelter-in-Place Order and the other emergency orders referenced above, the Court had already suspended or continued all civil and time-waiver criminal trials. Now, the Court is working with the criminal bar to set “no time waiver” trial dates for criminal cases within the scope of the Chief Justice’s Statewide Order.