

PRESS RELEASE



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

Court Announces Temporary Changes to Court Operations

El Centro, California – On March 16, 2020, leadership of the Superior Court of Imperial County met with representatives of Imperial County’s justice community – including the County Executive Office, District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, County Counsel, and Child Support Services – to discuss steps the Court and its partners could take to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order and recommendations, while at the same time protecting the rights of everyone impacted by the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

In response to local, state, and federal emergency declarations based upon the concerns regarding the Coronavirus/COVID-19, the Superior Court of California, County of Imperial has announced the following changes and recommendations:

1. All in-custody arraignments will be conducted by video beginning Wednesday, March 25, 2020.
2. Continue all out-of-custody misdemeanor arraignments for the weeks of March 23 and 30 for four (4) weeks.
3. Upon agreement of counsel, continue trial dates out approximately six (6) weeks.
4. Recommend new cases be continued, upon agreement of counsel and parties.
5. In civil and family courts, continue trials out six (6) to eight (8) weeks that are currently set in the month of March and early April.
6. Encourage the use of the Court’s online payment services, if possible. These services may be found on the Court’s website at www.imperial.courts.ca.gov.
7. In an effort to reduce the number of persons in Court buildings, it is recommended that persons refrain from bringing family members or friends that are not specifically a party to their case.

Jurors will continue to be summoned and are still required to call daily and come in if ordered to do so. In the event that a jury trial must be conducted, adjustments will be made to the number of persons called in at one time.

The Court will continue to monitor this evolving situation and will make further operational adjustments as appropriate. The Court is committed to ensuring access to justice while also promoting a safe environment for all court users and staff.