



Backlogs and Longer Case Processing Times: How to Contact the Superior Court During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the way the Santa Clara County Superior Court does business, even though the Court was open to provide access to justice for our County's citizens in a safe and socially distanced manner from the first day the County's first Shelter in Place Order was effective.

As a result of the fiscal effects of the pandemic, in June 2020, the State cut \$176.9 million from trial court funding; this significant budget reduction caused in excess of a \$16M deficit for the Santa Clara County Superior Court. To bridge this deficit, the Court negotiated furloughs for most employees, offered voluntary separation agreements, and implemented layoffs, all of which reduced our Court's available workforce. In addition, many remaining employees are taking protected leave permitted by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Due to the reduction in Court employees available to work, adherence to [social distancing requirements](#), and efforts to maintain [a safe, sanitized, and healthy forum](#) in which to do business, processing times have increased across all Court divisions. Non-criminal filings, motions, petitions and orders, as well as minute order processing and copy requests for all divisions are being impacted at this time. The Court is making every effort to address these backlogs and delays, including after hours and weekend work, strike teams and specific attention to areas of concern such as petitions and orders.

Despite these challenges, the Court will continue to remain open and available to the public. There are several ways you can reach the Court during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-person: [Courthouses and clerk's offices](#) (*Palo Alto and Morgan Hill facilities are currently closed*)

Phone: [Court telephone numbers](#)

Online: [Online services available](#)

Email:

Civil	sscivilinfo@scscourt.org
Criminal	sscrimininfo@scscourt.org
Family	ssfamilyinfo@scscourt.org
Jury	ssjuryinfo@scscourt.org
Juvenile	ssjuvininfo@scscourt.org
Probate	ssprobinfo@scscourt.org
Small Claims	sssclaimsinfo@scscourt.org
Traffic	sstrafficinfor@scscourt.org