



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF YOLO

Shawn C. Landry, Court Executive Officer
1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-6838 / courtinfo@yolo.courts.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Shawn C. Landry
Court Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 28, 2020

Woodland, California

Jury Trials Set to Resume in July

Woodland, California - The Superior Court of California, County of Yolo announced today that, as required by law, criminal jury trials will resume beginning the week of July 6, 2020.

Due to the life-threatening pandemic caused by COVID-19, on March 23, 2020, all jury trials were suspended for 60 days by order of Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council. A subsequent order dated April 29, 2020 found “good cause” to extend the continuance of jury trials an additional 30 days. These emergency orders and extensions are scheduled to expire June 15, 2020. Yolo Superior Court trials are anticipated to start in July.

“It is time to restart jury trials here in Yolo. They are an essential function of constitutional law and a free society. We pledge to do this in a safe and smart way. We ask for your patience and recognition that jury service is both a duty and right,” said Presiding Judge McAdam.

“Next week, residents will start receiving summons in the mail for jury duty” Court Executive Officer Shawn Landry explained. “The Court has made significant changes to the jury service protocol to ensure the safety of all potential jurors required to appear,” Landry added.

The new protocols include:

- The Court will follow CDC guidelines for social distancing.

- All jurors and persons entering the courthouse are required to wear face coverings at all times while inside the courthouse.
- There will be staggered reporting times to reduce the number of people in the Jury Assembly Room and courtroom. Juror seating will be marked accordingly.
- Jury orientation and hardships will be conducted virtually by Zoom or by phone on the Friday afternoon prior to start of trial on Monday. This will eliminate the jurors need to gather in the Jury Assembly Room to complete the orientation and will limit the number of people in the courtroom for jury selection.
- Sneeze guards have been installed in the Jury Service Office as well as in the jury box of each courtroom.
- Enhanced sanitation protocols will be followed.
- Text and email alerts are available to jurors and can be set up by logging into the Jury Portal.
- Jury Service Staff are available by phone and email to answer questions.

“Social distancing protocols will limit the number of seating available to the public” Judge McAdam stated. “Therefore, we plan to stream Court hearings via YouTube so members of the media and public can listen to the cases remotely without entering the courthouse.”

Presiding Judge McAdam added “We feel confident that with the help of the community, we can continue to provide fair and timely justice in a safe environment.”

For more information on what the court is doing to reduce possible exposure to COVID-19, please check www.yolo.courts.ca.gov.