



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2020

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RESPONDING TO STATE FISCAL CRISIS, VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

All Ventura Superior Court courtrooms and clerical offices will be closed on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at all three locations. The outside walk-up windows at the Hall of Justice in Ventura and East County Courthouse in Simi Valley will remain open for criminal/traffic and collection payments only. Cases already calendared for hearing have been rescheduled and the affected parties notified by the court.

The closure is required to address the reduction in funding to the California court system resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ventura Superior Court's deficit of approximately \$5.7 million is a combination of its share of the \$200 million Judicial Branch reduction and increased costs for the new fiscal year. In light of this budgetary situation, it became necessary that all non-represented staff take eighteen (18) mandatory furlough days. This is consistent with actions taking place in many California courts. Represented employees elected to take fourteen (14) furlough days and four (4) days of annual leave. Limited court closures are needed to manage the large number of furlough days.

The 18 court closure days are: September 30, 2020; October 21, 2020; November 18, 2020; November 25, 2020; December 16, 2020; December 23, 2020; December 24, 2020; December 30, 2020; December 31, 2020; January 15, 2021; February 11, 2021; March 10, 2021; March 17, 2021; April 21, 2021; May 5, 2021; May 19, 2021; June 9, 2021; and June 23, 2021. These dates were selected to minimize the impact on the public and court staff by spreading the dates throughout the fiscal year. Additionally, court business is generally slower in the middle of the week and around the holidays.

The court has also instituted various cost saving measures, including furloughs, eliminating or freezing vacant positions, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reducing expenditures for services and supplies.

A court closure day is not a judicial holiday for purposes of filing deadlines and other time calculations. Drop boxes are available at the Hall of Justice and Juvenile Courthouse for filing papers or submitting payments. Documents placed in the boxes by 4:00 p.m. will be deemed deposited for filing that same business day.

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