

What is a Tentative Ruling?

Civil Self-Help Services

Hall of Justice
813 6th Street
Room 117, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



What is a Tentative Ruling?

When a motion is filed in Department 53 or Department 54, the Court will issue a “Tentative Ruling.”

The Tentative Ruling states how the Judge intends to rule on the motion. The ruling is based on the papers filed by the parties and the applicable laws.

The Court issues the Tentative Ruling after 2:00 pm, one court/business day before the hearing on the motion. If the hearing is on a Monday, the Court will post it on Friday. Keep holidays in mind as well.

A party can contest the tentative ruling if:

- Oral argument may change the court's decision;
- The record needs to be clarified; or
- The grounds for the court's decision are unclear from its tentative ruling.

How to Access the Tentative Ruling

Look up the tentative ruling by:

1. Visiting:

[https://services.saccourt.ca.gov/
PublicCaseAccess/civil](https://services.saccourt.ca.gov/PublicCaseAccess/civil)

- Click on “Tentative Rulings by Department”
- Select the Department listed on the motion paperwork.
- Select the date of your hearing listed on the motion paperwork.
- Open the document, and scroll down to find the name of your case.



This QR code will take you directly to the tentative ruling page

2. Call the department where the motion will be heard. Leave a message with a return number and a clerk will call back with the tentative ruling.

Department 53: 916-874-7858

Department 54: 916-874-7848

What to do next.

IF YOU AGREE WITH THE TENTATIVE RULING...

You do not need to do anything. If the other party disagrees, they must contact you *and* the court by 4:00 pm the same day. If the other party does not contact you by 4:00 pm, the Tentative Ruling will become the order of the Court at the hearing.

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE TENTATIVE RULING...

Call the Law and Motion Oral Argument Request Line at (916) 874-2615 by 4:00 p.m. the Court day before the hearing and notify the other party. Leave a message with the following information:

- Your name, and that you want to appear.
- The item number (to the left of your case number on the Tentative Ruling)
- That you have let the other parties know you are appearing, and that they can appear via Zoom.

IF THE OTHER PARTY DISAGREES WITH THE TENTATIVE RULING...

The other party may call to inform you oral argument has been requested. You may attend the hearing to discuss the matter with the Judge.

IF THE TENTATIVE RULING SAYS, "APPEARANCE REQUIRED"...

Attend the hearing via Zoom.

How to Appear in Court

Civil Law and Motion hearings may be attended remotely via Zoom [which includes telephone and video options]. This will also apply to 'Appearance Required' matters.

Dept. 53/54 Zoom ID: 161 4650 6749

Before court:

If you are appearing via Zoom, familiarize yourself with the program. Take a "dry run" and make sure all your tech is functioning properly. If your internet is spotty, find a place where the signal is strongest.

If you need an interpreter, contact the Interpreters' Office as soon as possible at Interpreters@saccourt.ca.gov or (916) 874-8455.

Day of hearing:

To ensure a good connection, make sure anyone else in the household is not streaming on WiFi– no Spotify, Netflix, etc.

Check in early for your Zoom hearing. The "courtroom" may not open right at the scheduled hearing time. Be patient.

Do not interrupt the Judge or the other attorney/party. You will get a chance to speak. Take notes if you are worried that you will forget your thought.

Hours

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:30-12:00	8:30-12:00	8:30-12:00	8:30-12:00	8:30-12:00
1:30-4:00	1:30-4:00	1:30-4:00	CLOSED	1:30-4:00

Hours are subject to change based on staff availability.

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Phone: (916) 874-1421

Email: CivilSelfHelp@Saccourt.ca.gov

Web: www.saccourt.ca.gov

