



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

RUSSELL L. HOM
PRESIDING JUDGE
DEPARTMENT 47

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April 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Sacramento Legal Community:

On behalf of the Sacramento Superior Court, I provide this message regarding the status of court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. As explained in my prior message of March 30, 2020, the temporary court closure currently continues through April 16, 2020. Please continue to check the court's website for orders and updates, including potential extensions of this period. My March 30th message also discusses the essential functions that are being handled during the temporary court closure.

I provide this additional message principally to refer you to the Emergency Rules in Response to the COVID-10 Pandemic which were recommended to the Judicial Council of California and adopted by the Chief Justice earlier this week. As to civil cases, Emergency Rules 9 through 11 are most pertinent. Emergency Rule 9 tolls the statutes of limitations for all civil causes of action from April 6, 2020 to 90 days after the Governor lifts the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For all civil actions filed before April 6, 2020, Emergency Rule 10(a) increases by six months, the five-year period in which an action would otherwise have been required to be brought to trial in Civil Procedure Code section 583.310 (for a total of five years and six months). For all civil actions filed before April 6, 2020, Emergency Rule 10(b) increases by six months, the three-year period in which an action would otherwise have been required to be retried after granting of a new trial in Civil Procedure Code section 583.320 (for a total of three years and six months). Emergency Rule 11 relates to the expanded use of remote depositions.

Emergency Rules 9 and 10 were adopted with specific contemplation that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted court operations creating long-term repercussions on superior courts, and that civil matters, including trials, are likely to be delayed most substantially in comparison to criminal cases and other matters taking statutory and/or constitutional priority. Like other superior courts across the state, our court has been significantly affected by this crisis with civil operations bearing a large impact of the necessary delays and reduced operations. While we will continue to endure these realities, we will also continue to assess the potential for increases in civil operations when and where possible. I will continue to keep you updated.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding. Please be safe and stay healthy.

Russell L. Hom
Presiding Judge