



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURT TO RESUME JURY TRIALS

The Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento will resume jury trials on June 15, 2020, as part of its phased restoration of court operations.

Jury trials were suspended when the Court limited court facility access to the public on March 20, 2020, due to public health directives ordered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 26, 2020, the Court resumed two criminal jury trials that were suspended due to the Court facility closure. We will commence additional criminal jury trials as of June 15th.

The Court has implemented a plan for safe access to the justice system. The program is designed to assure strict enforcement of safety precautions in order to protect jurors, staff and members of the public who enter Court facilities. This plan includes the following:

Stay Home if you are Sick - Anyone who is sick or who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted to enter any court facility.

Reduction in Jurors – We are significantly reducing the number of jurors being asked to report for jury service at any one time and will be staggering arrival times throughout the day.

Mandatory Facial Coverings – Employees, jurors and members of the public will be required to wear facial coverings within the courthouse. For more information on face coverings please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Non-Invasive Temperature Screening - Anyone entering a court facility will have their temperature taken through non-invasive means. Anyone exhibiting a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter any court facility.

Physical Distancing - We have implemented physical-distancing policies throughout the courthouse with floor and seat guides to assist and remind of appropriate physical distancing. Elevator use is being restricted to 2 users at a time.

Enhanced Sanitation - We have increased the amount of routine cleaning, with a focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas including elevators, courtrooms, jury assembly rooms and restrooms.

Remember, we cannot do this without the participation of citizens. Trial by jury is more than just a fundamental Constitutional right in the United States and California. It is a critical safeguard of individual liberties and helps keep us anchored to our constitutional principles. Along with representative government, “trial by jury [is] the heart and lungs of liberty.” – although history credits John Adams with this profound quote, there is increasing historical evidence that Abigail Adams, a prolific writer in her time, may have been the actual author.

In the Sacramento County Superior Court, and in every courthouse in our nation, jurors set standards of conduct by deciding what is fair, reasonable and tolerable, and what is wrong, unreasonable and intolerable in our society. The Court cannot provide jury trials without the participation of citizens. With our plan for safe access to the justice system, the Court is ready to safely welcome this critical part of the justice system back into our courtrooms.

Jurors are encouraged to follow the steps outlined in their jury summons. For more information on jury service or to request a postponement of jury service, please visit www.saccourt.ca.gov and click on “Info Centers” or call Jury Services at (916) 874-7775.

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