



*Superior Court of California
County of Amador*

Barbara Cockerham
Court Executive Officer
Jury Commissioner

September 11, 2012

Ms. Jody Patel, Interim Administrative Director
Administrative Office of the Courts-Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE § 68106

Dear Ms. Patel:

In accordance with Government Code Section 68106, the Amador Superior Court hereby provides notice of its intent to reduce operating hours of the Clerk's Office filing windows and telephones, beginning November 13, 2012. These actions are being taken as a result of the devastating effects of the trial court budget reductions to this Court.

The Court deeply regrets taking these actions and only does after exhausting all other alternatives to cope with this unprecedented financial impact. The Amador Superior Court is facing a \$673,000 on-going budget reduction through FY2012-2013. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 will not get any better if there is no new funding restoration.

This is the most severe fiscal crisis the Court has faced to date. Over the last three to four years, staff have seen a 9.7% reduction in pay and a 6.3% reduction; twenty mandatory unpaid furlough days for fiscal years 2012 and 2013; hiring freezes; voluntary separations and now layoffs. We have cut back on expenditures, re-engineered our processes, reorganized, and put other cost saving measures in place. We are at the point where we can only provide basic and necessary services.

Please be assured we have chosen this course of action only after much consideration and exhausting deliberation. I speak full-heartedly on behalf of the judges and the entire court, that it is with great sadness we have to reduce services available to the residents of Amador County.

We will continue to work with our local bar association and justice partners to take all necessary action to lessen the impact this decision will have on our community.

Sincerely,



Barbara Cockerham
Court Executive Officer

Cc: Susan C. Harlan, Presiding Judge
David S. Richmond, Assistant Presiding Judge



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF AMADOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 68106

NOTICE OF REDUCTION IN OPERATING HOURS

Posted September 13, 2012

Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106, the Superior Court of California, County of Amador, is providing sixty days notice of the Bench's decision to reduce the hours of operation for the public filing windows and telephones in the Clerk's Office. **This reduction is necessary due to the unprecedented and ongoing State budget cuts.**

Currently, the Clerk's Office filing windows and telephones are open to the public from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., excluding court holidays and weekends. Effective November 13, 2012, the Amador Superior Court new hours of operation in the Clerk's Office will be as follows:

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY:

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FRIDAY:

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

The Amador Superior Court has not taken this decision lightly and has spent many hours analyzing and exploring options for budget reductions. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause, however, this is an unavoidable consequence of the budget crisis facing the California Judicial Branch.

Since 2009, state funding for the judicial branch has been reduced by more than 30% with significant reductions impacting the budgets of individual Superior Courts throughout the state. The Amador Superior Court is facing a \$673,000 budget reduction, the most severe fiscal crisis the Court has faced to date. As a result of these ongoing funding reductions, over the last three years, the Amador Superior Court has instituted various cost savings measures, including leaving vacancies unfilled, implementing mandatory unpaid furloughs, reengineering Court processes for efficiencies, and reducing expenditures for services and supplies. Court employees also took a 6.3% reduction in salary in FY 2011/2012 and FY 2012/2013.

A drop box will be available in the Clerk's Office to receive documents for same day filing Monday through Friday. Filing deadlines will not be extended due to the limited service days. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2.210(b) any document deposited in a court's drop box up to and including **5:00 p.m.** on a court day is deemed to have been deposited for filing on that day. All documents will be removed from the drop box just after 5:00 p.m., daily. Any document dropped after 5:00 p.m. will be received and filed the following court business day.

Any interested person or entity wishing to comment on the court's plan of action should direct the same on or before November 13, 2012 to Amador Superior Court, Barbara Cockerham, 500 Argonaut Lane, Jackson, California, 95642. You may also send your comments via email to scadmin@amadorcourt.org. All public input will be considered.

*Government Code section 68106 requires trial courts to provide notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or closing or reducing the hours of clerks' offices by conspicuous posting within its facilities and on its public website.