



Superior Court of California County of Fresno

CHAMBERS OF
GARY D. HOFF
Presiding Judge

1100 VAN NESS AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93724-0002
(559) 457-6354
FAX (559) 457-1709

July 27, 2012

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

Re: Temporary Consolidation of Services – Notification Pursuant to Government
Code §68106

Dear Ms. Patel:

Due to a diminished caseload during the holidays and severe budget reductions, the Fresno Superior Court intends to close the main and B.F. Sisk Courthouses temporarily and consolidate the Clerk's Offices into the M Street Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Campus on the following dates in 2012: November 21; December 24, 26, 27, 28, and 31. This temporary closure will also include the Self-Help Center.

These changes are a result of the Court's strategic planning for operational efficiency during the slower holiday season. The temporary relocation of departments from the main and B.F. Sisk Courthouses to the M Street Courthouse on these days will provide the Court the opportunity to better utilize staff resources during the fiscal year, while implementing a 12-day mandatory furlough program.

The Court will have employees available to assist the public for Traffic, Civil, Small Claims, Probate, Family Law, Family Support, and Criminal to ensure equal access to justice is not compromised. Our Court facility located at the Juvenile Justice Campus will also be open to serve court-users for Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency matters. Our organization will keep the Clerk's Office hours of operation intact during this timeframe, which will remain 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Court employees who are assisting the public during this time will also be able to perform all normal Clerk's Office duties, with no change in the scope of services provided.

Pursuant to Government Code §68106, this Court has solicited for public comment in writing regarding the Court's plan for closing the Clerk's Office and reducing operations as set out above. A copy of the public notice is attached.

Ms. Jody Patel
July 27, 2012
Page 2

Thank you again for your continued courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Hoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Hoff" clearly distinguishable.

Hon. Gary D. Hoff
Presiding Judge

GDH:kpa

Attachment



Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 26, 2012

RE: FRESNO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TEMPORARY CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES DURING THE 2012 HOLIDAY SEASON

Due to severe budget reductions and a diminished caseload during the holidays, the Fresno Superior Court intends to close the main and B.F. Sisk Courthouses (including the Self-Help Center) temporarily and consolidate the Clerk's Offices into the M Street Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Campus only on the following days:

- November 21, 2012, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving
- December 24, 2012, Christmas Eve
- December 26, 27, 28, 2012, the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after Christmas
- December 31, 2012, New Year's Eve

CLERK'S OFFICE

For Clerk's Office services on the above dates, the Fresno Superior Court will have at least one window open at the M Street Courthouse, 2317 Tuolumne Street, for each of the following departments: Traffic, Civil/Small Claims, Probate, Family Law/Family Support, and Criminal. The Clerk's Office at the Juvenile Justice Campus (located at 3333 East American Avenue) will remain open for juvenile related matters (both Delinquency and Dependency). The Clerk's Office hours on those days will remain 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Each case specific window will be open and available to perform all normal Clerk's Office duties.

These changes are a result of the Court's strategic planning for operational efficiency during the slower holiday season. The temporary relocation of departments from the main and B.F. Sisk Courthouses to the M Street Courthouse on these days will provide the Court the opportunity to better utilize staff resources during the fiscal year, while implementing a 12-day mandatory furlough program.

COURTROOMS

The following courtrooms **WILL** be open:

- Departments 95 and 96 at the North Annex Jail (located at 1265 M Street) for adult arraignment hearings, domestic violence and restraining order matters, and urgent cases with statutory timeframe limitations.
- Department 99A at the Juvenile Justice Campus (located at 3333 East American Avenue) for all juvenile delinquency and dependency matters including arraignment hearings and urgent cases with statutory timeframe limitations.
- Department 97C at the M Street Courthouse (located at 2317 Tuolumne Street) for traffic and criminal infraction walk-in arraignments, and will assist Department 95, 96, and the Juvenile Justice Campus should a need arise. This department will also process emergency orders.
- Departments 97A and 97B as standby trial courtrooms at the M Street Courthouse (located at 2317 Tuolumne Street) for adult criminal trials, should they need to proceed due to a statutory timeframe limitation.

All other courtrooms will be closed during these days.

Pursuant to Government Code §68106, any interested person or entity who wishes to comment in writing regarding the Court's plan for closing the Clerk's Office and reducing operations as set out above may do so via one of the following ways by September 26, 2012:

E-mail: Infodesk@fresno.courts.ca.gov -OR- Correspondence: ATTN: Administration
1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA, 93724

It is the Court's intention to consolidate services as outlined in this notice. However, the Court strongly encourages public input and alternate options. The Court will consider all submitted comments before finalizing its decision. Union leaders have been notified of this information and have agreed to the proposal. If any changes result from the comments received, the Court shall immediately provide notice of the change.