

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**



*Press Release
(For immediate release: December 10, 2012)*

**MENDOCINO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DECIDES NOT
TO REDUCE SERVICES IN FORT BRAGG COURT**

The Mendocino County Superior Court announced at a hearing in Fort Bragg on November 29, 2012 that it would not reduce services to the Ten Mile Court in Fort Bragg. The Court had given a "Notice of Temporary Reduction of Services" on October 24, 2012 as a cost saving measure due to severe cuts in the trial court budget. The Court is faced with a state-mandated budget reduction of approximately 27% over a two year period: from 2012 to 2013. The court had proposed to move all felony matters and some misdemeanor trials from Fort Bragg to Ukiah.

After receiving extensive feed back and comments from coastal residents explaining hardships the cutback in services would cause and listening to the testimony of coast residents on November 29, Presiding Judge Richard Henderson announced that the Court would not make the reductions at this time. The Court was persuaded by the strong input from people from the coast to continue all existing services in the Fort Bragg court for fiscal year 2012-2013. The hearing was held in the Fort Bragg City Council chambers before a packed house with seven of the Court's eight judges in attendance.

The Court is hoping that the proposed cuts for 2013-2014 will not be as severe as projected and enlisted the coast residents' help in attempting to convince the legislature

and the governor to restore some of the cuts to trial courts across the state in the next budget.

Judge Henderson said, "We have already cut 23 of the 79 employee positions we had in 2009 and almost all of those cuts have come from the main courthouse staff in Ukiah. We do not want to reduce services in Fort Bragg and will do all we can to avoid that result. Access to justice by the citizens of this county is suffering and will get worse unless cuts proposed in next year's budget are restored or offset in some way."



**Superior Court of California
County of Mendocino**

**NOTICE OF TEMPORARY REDUCTION
IN SERVICES
PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE §68106**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 30, 2012

**NOTICE OF TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN COURT
SERVICES IN THE TEN MILE BRANCH,
FORT BRAGG COURT
Effective December 31, 2012**

Severe budget reductions imposed by the State will compel the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino to lay off personnel which will result in a temporary reduction of court services in the Ten Mile Branch Court in Fort Bragg. The State announced budget reductions of approximately \$768,675.00 to the local court for the current fiscal year, representing a cut of 17.3% from the last fiscal year. This current reduction brings the total cumulative reduction to 21.5% since 2008/2009.

Over the past three years the Court was able to implement required cuts in programs and other areas without reducing actual courtroom and counter services. With a budget of approximately \$5,348,462.00, however, the Court is not able to absorb the latest reductions without a reduction of salary and related personnel expenses (which together currently cost \$4,783,251.00, constituting approximately 89% of the entire court budget). Personnel layoffs may occur at both the Ukiah and Ten Mile Court locations.

The Court is currently in session at the Ten Mile Fort Bragg Branch Monday through Friday, hearing Civil (limited and unlimited), Criminal (felony and misdemeanor), Family Law, Juvenile, Probate, Small Claims and Traffic, with Court Clerk's Office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Commencing December 31, 2012, the Court will reduce its sessions at that location to three days weekly, Monday through Wednesday. Long cause Civil matters (Civil, Family Law and Probate), which commence on a Wednesday, may continue uninterrupted through Friday. Although the Court Clerk's Office at that location will remain open Monday through Friday, its hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for filing of papers, inspection of files and other clerical business. The Court will no longer conduct hearings in

criminal felony and in juvenile matters at the Ten Mile Branch in Fort Bragg. In addition, the Ten Mile Court will no longer hear jury trials or in-custody matters.

Effective December 31, 2012, the following reduced courtroom schedule will apply at the Ten Mile Branch in Fort Bragg:

- **MONDAY**
 - 8:30 a.m. **Criminal** - Arraignments
 - 9:00 a.m. **Criminal** - Pleas, Pre-Trial Conferences, Motions, Hearings, Settings, Judgment & Sentencing and Violations of Probation
 - 1:15 p.m. **Civil and Family Law** - Ex Partes
 - 1:30 p.m. **Criminal** - Pleas, Pre-Trial Conferences, Motions, Hearings, Settings, Judgment & Sentencing, Violations of Probation, Expungements, and Proof of Court Ordered Requirements

- **TUESDAY**
 - 8:30 a.m. **Criminal** - Arraignments
 - 9:00 a.m. **Criminal** - Pleas, Pre-Trial Conferences, Motions, Hearings, Settings, Judgment & Sentencing and Violations of Probation
 - 1:15 p.m. **Civil and Family Law** - Ex Parte Hearings
 - 1:30 p.m. **Civil (Limited and Unlimited)** – Short Cause, Non-Contested, Harassment Restraining Orders, Unlawful Detainers and Law and Motion Hearings
 - 1:30 p.m. **Probate** – Calendar Matters and Evidentiary Hearings
 - 1:30 p.m. **Family Law** - Domestic Violence Restraining Orders – without children

- **TUESDAY 2nd and 4th**
 - 1:30 p.m. **Small Claims** – Trials and Law and Motion

- **WEDNESDAY 1st and 3rd**
 - 8:30 a.m. **Civil (Limited and Unlimited)** – Long Cause, Contested, Harassment, Unlawful Detainers, Law and Motion
Family Law – Domestic Violence Restraining Orders – without children, Motions, Evidentiary Hearings and Court Trials
Probate – Continued Hearings
 - 1:30 p.m. **Civil (Limited and Unlimited)** – Continued Hearings
Family Law – Domestic Violence Restraining Orders – without children, and Continued Hearings
Criminal – Court Trials
 - 2:00 p.m. **Civil and Family Law** – Settlement Conferences

- **WEDNESDAYS 2nd and 4th**
 - 9:00 a.m. **Traffic** – Court Trials
 - 9:30 a.m. **Traffic** - Arraignments
 - 1:30 p.m. **Civil (Limited)** – Harassment and Unlawful Detainers
 - Criminal** – Court Trials
 - 2:00 p.m. **Civil and Family Law** – Settlement Conferences

- **THURSDAYS**
 - 8:30 a.m. **Civil (Limited and Unlimited)** – Continued Hearings
 - Family Law** – Continued Hearings
 - Probate** – Continued Hearings

- **THURSDAYS 3rd (every other month in Point Arena)**
 - 9:00 a.m. **Criminal (Misdemeanor)** – Arraignments, Pleas, Pre-Trial Conferences, Motions, Hearings, Settings, Judgment & Sentencing and Violations of Probation
 - Traffic** – Arraignments and Court Trials
 - Small Claims** – Trials and Law and Motion

- **FRIDAYS**
 - 8:30 a.m. **Civil (Limited and Unlimited)** – Continued Hearings
 - Family Law** – Continued Hearings
 - Probate** – Continued Hearings

The judges and court staff have made every effort over the past three or four years to implement mandated budget reductions without reducing actual in-court services. The dedicated court staff has seen its actual wages and benefits effectively frozen and, in some cases, reduced and its individual workload increased over the last three years. So long as the Governor and State Legislature continue to reduce the Judicial Branch budget, the local courts have no alternative but to reduce court services. The Court has no other source of revenue.

The Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino is committed to ensuring open access to a system of unified and equal justice for all. The Court will do its best to minimize the overall impact and make the transition as easy as possible.

Public comments regarding the above changes are welcome and may be submitted by e-mail to: TENMILEREDUCTIONS@MENDOCINO.COURTS.CA.GOV or by regular mail to the attention of: Court Administration at 100 N. State Street; Ukiah, CA 95482 no later than 5:00 p.m. December 30, 2012. The Court will conduct a public meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2012, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at its Ten Mile Branch in Fort Bragg to discuss the local court budget and the reduction in court services

**For additional information regarding this press release,
please contact Court Administration at: (707) 467-6437.**