



Office of the Court Executive
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

JEFFREY E. LEWIS
Clerk of Court
and
Jury Commissioner

September 22, 2017

Ms. Jody Patel
Chief of Staff
Judicial Council of California
2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95833-3509

RE: Notification of Reduced Service Hours, Pursuant to Government Code §68106

Dear Ms. Patel,

This letter serves as the formal 60-day notice, pursuant to GC §68106, that the Kings County Superior Court intends to reduce staffing and temporarily limit the hours and operations of its Divisions and Departments, between December 25, 2017 and January 1, 2018.

Due to the continued effects of ongoing underfunding, multiple years of extreme cost-saving measures and an attendant 20% reduction in staff, our backlog of case processing and case dispositions has not been substantially reduced. The collective result of this backlog impacts our justice partners as well as public safety.

I have enclosed a copy of our Public Notice entitled, "Court Limited Hours during the Holidays," which will be posted at the courthouse and on the court's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JEFFREY E. LEWIS'.

Jeffrey E. Lewis
Court Executive Officer



Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

Steven D. Barnes
Presiding Judge
of the
Superior Court

Jeffrey E. Lewis
Clerk of Court
and
Jury Commissioner

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

Court Limited Hours during the Holidays
September 25, 2017

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 68106, the Superior Court of Kings County hereby gives notice of its intent to reduce staffing and temporarily limit the hours and operations of its Divisions and Departments between December 25, 2017 and January 1, 2018, as follows:

1. Monday, December 25, 2017, the courthouse will be closed, in observance of Christmas.
2. The Jury Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 26, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018; any questions regarding jury service should be directed to the Clerk of the Court.
3. Tuesday, December 26, 2017 through Thursday, December 28, 2017, staffing of all trial departments of the Courthouse will be reduced resulting in a temporary closure of multiple courtrooms. During this period, the Courthouse Clerk's Office hours of operation will remain the same [Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.]; however, longer processing and response times may be experienced.
4. Friday, December 29, 2017, the Courthouse business hours will remain the same [8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.]
5. Monday, January 1, 2018, the Courthouse will be closed, in observance of New Year's.
6. Pre-December 25, 2017 operations and staffing levels will be restored to all Divisions of the Kings County Superior Court on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The Superior Court Judges in Kings County have concluded that the temporary closure of the Jury Office, the limitation in operational trial departments, and the reduction of hours at our Courthouse as set forth above, is necessary in order to address the continued budget concerns and attendant personnel shortage that the Court faces. The limitation of hours and services set forth above is just one of many cost-saving steps taken by the Court to address continued trial court funding shortfalls.

Any interested person or entity wishing to comment on the Court's plan of action should direct the same on or before November 27, 2017 to Jeffrey E. Lewis, Court Executive Officer at Kings County Superior Court, 1640 Kings County Drive, Hanford, California, 93230. You may also send your comments via email to jlewis@kings.courts.ca.gov. All public input will be considered.