

VENTURA

Population: 823,318 • Authorized Judges: 29 • Staff: 389 FTE

Civil Filings: 11,933 • Criminal Filings: 131,258 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 7,433 • Other Filings: 1,968

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Restore Local Court Services and Reopen Courtrooms.

- **Due to budget reductions, family and civil calendars and services were reassigned from the eastern part of the county to the main Ventura courthouse. This included judges, clerks, mediation, and self-help. This continues to negatively impact residents in the eastern part of the county, where many low-income families live, and where there are few transit options.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements, and protect children and the elderly by conducting timely investigations in guardianship and conservatorship cases.

- **3 months is the current wait time for families seeking non-emergency screenings and mediations.**
- **Continued growth in the number of Probate Guardianships and Conservatorships has resulted in a 25% backlog in annual review investigations.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **Budget reductions have meant reduced hours and reduced levels of service.**
- **Transit-dependent people cannot arrive in time to be served due to service reductions.**
- **One-third of the people seeking services were turned away when the self-help centers reached capacity.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, we intend to...

- Hire additional clerks for window, e-mail and phone service to reduce wait times and increase hours of operation.
- Restore local court services.
- Expand the availability of Web access tools, and e-filing and e-services for court users.
- Add Family Court Services mediators/ investigators to reduce waiting times for mediations and legally mandated annual reviews of guardianships and conservatorships.
- Add Family Law Facilitators and Civil Self Help Center staff to increase our service to the public.
- Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases with at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.
- Protect families with emergency orders, restore family stability with mediated custody agreements, and protect children and the elderly by conducting timely investigations in guardianship and conservatorship cases.
- Ensure court clerks are available when and how people need them.
- Reduce wait time for sealing/expunging criminal records to help people get jobs and to protect privacy.
- Reduce wait time for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.
- This funding, along with a modern case management system that will be operational in 2019, will allow the Court to begin planning restoration of needed calendars and services.