

PUBLIC NOTICE

Superior Court of California, County of Merced

Effective October 26, 2011:

Notice of Reduction in Operating Hours-All Clerk's Offices will close at 3:00 p.m. and Limited Operation Days in November and December 2011

Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106 and rule 10.620(f)(6) of the California Rules of Court, the Superior Court of California, County of Merced is providing 60 day notice of the Court's Executive Committee decision to reduce the hours for the public filing windows and telephones in the Clerk's Offices. In addition, the court will implement limited operation days in 2011 on November 21, 22 and 23 (Thanksgiving week); and December 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2011. The court invited public comment regarding these changes pursuant to rule 10.620(d)(3); none were received.

On the limited operation days, all Clerk's Offices and all but two courtrooms will be closed. One courtroom will remain open in the Main Courthouse, Courtroom 5, with a judge available to conduct arraignments and examinations as required by law, and to sign any necessary documents on an emergency basis. In addition, a second courtroom will remain open in the Juvenile Division to handle time-sensitive juvenile matters.

Currently the operating hours for the Merced Superior Court Clerk's Office filing windows and telephones are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Effective Wednesday, October 26, 2011, the operating hours for the Clerk's Office filing windows and telephones will be Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., excluding holidays. A document drop box will be available at each court location to permit the same-day filing of documents deposited there before 4:00 p.m.

The court finds it necessary to institute these changes in light of the ongoing state budget crisis. Over the past three years the California Judicial Branch budget has been reduced by 30%. The Legislature and Governor recently approved an additional permanent \$350 million dollar budget reduction to the Judicial Branch. The Merced Superior Court must absorb a 6.8% budget reduction for fiscal year 2011-12, and expects it will need to absorb a 15.2% reduction for fiscal year 2012-13. The Court has instituted various cost savings measures such as freezing vacancies, employee furloughs and reengineering court processes for efficiencies.

Please see the Superior Court web site for additional information: www.merced.courts.ca.gov