

Superior Court of California County of Orange *News Release*

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Court Launches Counter Service Self-Scheduling App

Santa Ana, CA – The Superior Court of California, County of Orange, is launching a new online scheduling tool to allow members of the public to self-schedule an in-person appointment at the public counters.

Currently, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, members of the public are generally not allowed to enter and only are only allowed limited access to Court facilities. During the current phase of the gradual reopening of the Court, members of the public are allowed to enter Court facilities only they have been notified by the Court that they have an in-person hearing or an appointment scheduled. This phased approach will enable the Court to slowly increase the caseload and visitor level at each courthouse, while at the same time to monitor that health protocols are being followed.

This <u>new online app</u> (<u>https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/CourtCalendarAppointments.html</u>) will support the needs of the public for services offered at the public kiosks and counters inside the courthouse.

At this time, the Court is offering online appointments for the following areas: Civil Probate Appeals Court Records and Exhibits

This app was created to assist parties on an in-person basis, but the Court will continue to provide various means to file documents, such as drop boxes, email, eFiling, etc.

As part of the soft reopening, the Court will be strictly enforcing health protocols. The use of facemasks or face coverings is mandatory for anyone entering a courthouse. Social distancing rules will also be strictly enforced in all facilities, thus the number of individuals entering public courtrooms and elevators will be subject to space limitations. Persons displaying possible coronavirus symptoms will not be allowed in Court facilities.

The Court recommends all persons consult the Court's coronavirus website (<u>https://www.occourts.org/mediarelations/CoronaVirusUpdate.html</u>) for more details and the most up-to-date information regarding their case type.

The public is encouraged to visit the OC Health Care Agency website for up-to-date information about COVID-19 symptoms: http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel_coronavirus

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