



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688
www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-152

For business meeting on October 24, 2025

Title

Trial Courts: Public Notice of Court Closures
or Reduced Clerks' Office Hours

Report Type

Information

Date of Report

October 10, 2025

Submitted by

Michelle Curran, Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Contact

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Executive Summary

Government Code section 68106 directs (1) trial courts to notify the public and the Judicial Council before closing courtrooms or clerks' offices or reducing clerks' regular office hours, and (2) the council to post all such notices on its website and relay them to the Legislature. This report lists the latest court notices received by the council under this statutory requirement. Since the previous report, one superior court—the Superior Court of Fresno County—has issued a new notice.

Relevant Previous Reporting or Action

Since the enactment of section 68106, 72 notices have been issued by courts under its requirements. The Judicial Council has posted such notices as they have been received.

Analysis/Rationale

Mandate in Government Code section 68106

In providing fee increases and fund transfers for the courts in the judiciary budget trailer bill in 2010 (Sen. Bill 857; Stats. 2010, ch. 720), the Legislature expressly declared its intention that trial courts remain open to the public on all days that are not judicial holidays and that access to court services for civil litigants be preserved to the extent practicable. Statements in Government Code section 68106 (see Link A) affirmed this intent, and the 2012 amendment of the statute strengthened it.

Section 68106 imposes the following requirements on trial courts and the Judicial Council:

- Trial courts must provide written notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or clerk’s office, or reducing clerks’ office hours,¹ although “[n]othing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decisionmaking, including calendar management and scheduling decisions.”²
- The trial court is to provide this notice “by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court’s electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council.”³
- The notice must describe the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, state the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary, and invite public comment.⁴ Courts are, expressly, not obligated to respond to comments received.⁵
- If a court changes its plan “as a result of the comments received or for any other reason” during the 60-day notice period, it must “immediately provide notice to the public by posting [and distributing] a revised notice” using the procedure previously described, including distribution to the council. The change in plan does not require notification, however, beyond the original 60-day period.⁶
- The Judicial Council must, within 15 days of receiving a notice from a trial court, “conspicuously” post the notice “on its Internet Web site” and forward a copy to the chairs and vice-chairs of both the Senate and Assembly Committees on the Judiciary, the chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.⁷

Notices received from courts since last report

The Judicial Council has received one new notice (see Attachment A) since the last section 68106 report was presented to the council in April 2025.

The Superior Court of Fresno County provided notice that, due to statewide budgetary constraints and a diminished caseload during the holidays, it will temporarily close the M Street and B. F. Sisk Courthouses and do business only through the clerk’s offices at the main

¹ Gov. Code, § 68106(b)(1).

² *Id.*, § 68106(c).

³ *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1).

⁴ *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1) & (2)(A).

⁵ *Id.*, § 68106(b)(2)(B).

⁶ *Id.*, § 68106(b)(2)(A).

⁷ *Id.*, § 68106(b)(3).

courthouse and Juvenile Justice Courthouse on November 24, 25, and 26, 2025; December 22, 23, 24, and 26, 2025; January 2, 2026; and February 13, 2026. All cases will be temporarily consolidated, and all essential hearings will be heard only in the main courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Courthouse. The Jail Annex, Criminal Courts Departments 95 & 96; Archives Facility; B. F. Sisk Courthouse; and M Street Courthouse will be closed on the aforementioned dates.

Court employees will be available to assist the public with criminal and dependency matters, juvenile justice matters, and all other normal clerk's office duties, with no change to the scope of services provided.

The notice detailed above has been added to the "Reduced Court Services" webpage (courts.ca.gov/courts/superior-courts/reduced-court-services) of the California Courts website. The webpage contains a summary of section 68106 and all notices received from trial courts about closures of courtrooms or clerks' offices, or reductions in clerks' office hours. Judicial Council staff have also forwarded the notices from these courts to the designated legislative leaders.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Posting the notice to the California Courts website fulfills a legislative mandate and has no fiscal impact or policy implications.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Notice from the Superior Court of Fresno County, June 2, 2025
2. Link A: Gov. Code, § 68106,
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=68106



CHAMBERS OF
HOURY A. SANDERSON
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June 2, 2025

Ms. Michelle Curran, Administrative Director
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Temporary Consolidation of Services
Notification Pursuant to Government Code section 68106

Dear Ms. Curran:

Due to statewide budgetary constraints and a diminished caseload during the holidays, the Fresno Superior Court intends to temporarily close the "M" Street and B.F. Sisk Courthouses. The Clerk's Offices at the Main and Juvenile Justice Courthouses will be open on the following dates: November 24, 25, and 26, 2025; December 22, 23, 24, and 26, 2025; January 2, 2026; and February 13, 2026. Court filings for Traffic, Civil, Family Law and Probate, must be submitted via e-filing or drop box. This temporary closure will also include the Self-Help Center and Archives Department.

These changes are a result of the Court's strategic planning for operational efficiency during the slower holiday season. The temporary relocation of departments from the B.F. Sisk and "M" Street Courthouses to the Main and Juvenile Justice Courthouses on these dates will provide the Court with the opportunity to better utilize staff resources.

The Court will have employees available to assist the public for Criminal and Dependency matters. Our Juvenile Justice Courthouse will also be open to serve court users for Juvenile justice matters. Court employees assisting the public during this time will also be able to perform all normal Clerk's Office duties, with no change in the scope of services provided.

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106, this Court has solicited for public comment in writing regarding the Court's plan for closing the Clerk's Office and reducing operations as set forth above. A copy of the public notice is attached.

Thank you again for your continued courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Houry A. Sanderson". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Houry A. Sanderson
Presiding Judge

HAS:hs

Attachment



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF FRESNO**



NOTICE OF LIMITED COURT CLOSURES

**November 24, 25, and 26, 2025;
December 22, 23, 24, and 26, 2025;
January 2, 2026;
February 13, 2026**

Due to statewide budgetary constraints and a diminished caseload during the holidays, and following the required public comment procedures for 60 days,* the Fresno Superior Court hereby announces that it will temporarily consolidate cases. All essential hearings to be heard only in the Main Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Courthouse, on the following dates only: November 24, 25, and 26, 2025; December 22, 23, 24, and 26, 2025; January 2, 2026; and February 13, 2026.

Courthouse status will be as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • Main Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave. (Criminal and Dependency) | OPEN |
| • Juvenile Justice Courthouse, 3333 E. American Ave. (Juvenile) | OPEN |
| • Jail Annex Departments 95 & 96, 1265 "M" Street (Criminal) | CLOSED |
| • Archives Department, 1963 "E" Street | CLOSED |
| • B. F. Sisk Courthouse, 1130 "O" St. (Civil/Family/Probate/Self-Help Center) | CLOSED |
| • "M" Street Courthouse, 2317 Tuolumne St. (Traffic) | CLOSED |

All Clerks' Offices will be closed, with the exception of the following:

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|--|------|
| • Main Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave.
(Criminal 4 th floor #401 & Dependency 2 nd floor #200) | OPEN |
| • Juvenile Justice Courthouse, 3333 E. American Ave. (Juvenile) | OPEN |

Court filings must be submitted via e-filing or drop box for the following cases types below. Drop boxes will be located as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • TRAFFIC: | Main Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave., Main Entrance |
| • CIVIL/FAMILY/PROBATE: | B. F. Sisk Courthouse, 1130 "O" St., Main Entrance |

Services from the Self-Help Center and Archives Department will be unavailable.

These changes are a result of the Court's strategic planning for operational efficiency during this time of year as well as addressing current statewide budgetary constraints. The temporary relocation of departments from the "M" Street and B. F. Sisk Courthouses to the Main Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Courthouse on these dates will provide the Court with the opportunity to better utilize staff resources.

*Pursuant to Government Code section 68106, this proposal is published for public comment with a deadline of August 1, 2025 (60 days from notice).

After that date, the comments will be reviewed and modifications will be made to the proposal, if necessary.