

**Pauline Maxwell**  
Presiding Judge



**SUPERIOR COURT**  
*of*  
**SANTA BARBARA**

SANTA MARIA • LOMPOC • SANTA BARBARA

**Darrel E. Parker**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SANTA BARBARA SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES REDUCTION  
IN SERVICES DUE TO STATE FUNDING REDUCTIONS**

November 25, 2024 – Santa Barbara, California

The Santa Barbara Superior Court will be closing the clerk's offices early during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's weeks in Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara. Critical court employees are taking unpaid furlough days to stave off further operational reductions as a result of state budget cuts imposed by the Governor and the Legislature. The result is decreased access to justice during these limited time periods. We regret these actions, but they are necessary to address the draconian budget reductions imposed upon your local courts. Without the selfless actions of Superior Court staff voluntarily taking unpaid days of leave, more serious and permanent cuts would have been implemented.

On November 27 and on December 23 through December 31, 2024, the clerk's offices will be closed at 12:00 p.m. Jury operations and juvenile operations will remain open under normal operating hours.

**Counter Hours**

Civil – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Criminal – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Records – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Jury – 8:00 – 3:00 p.m. (No change)  
Juvenile – 8:00 – 3:00 p.m. (No change)

**Phone Hours**

Civil – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Criminal – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Records – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Jury - 8:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Juvenile – 8:00 – 3:00 p.m.

These actions are taken in response to the budget reductions to the judicial branch contained in the Budget Act of 2024 (\$97 million reduction to the trial courts). Across California, access to justice has been reduced as a result of limitations imposed by funding reductions.

The Santa Barbara Superior Court remains concerned about the public impact that recent budget cuts, and possible future budget cuts, have on access to justice. Moreover, our court experiences these cuts in the face of continuously increased operating costs. Reduced funding further strains our courts' ability to meet those rising costs. Without a restoration of funding, any additional cuts will lead to further reductions in essential court services and delays

While state revenue projections for the coming year are up, the Governor's budget does not direct any fiscal restoration to the trial courts of California but instead focuses increased funding to other areas deemed a priority by the Governor and the Legislature. A more judicious approach to allocating available resources is necessary to ensure access to justice to our most vulnerable populations. The doors to the courthouse do not unlock themselves. Dedicated, hardworking, knowledgeable public servants with pride in their delivery provide court access to a population hungry for justice. Without adequate funding those seeking justice will suffer delays and remain unsatiated.