



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KINGS

Public Notice of Proposed Closure of Avenal and Corcoran Court Locations and Reduction in Hours and Staffing at Hanford Location, December 24, 2012 through January 1, 2013 [Cal. Govt. Code § 68106]

The State of California is faced with a fiscal crisis that has had a continuing adverse impact on Court operations. All State Government Agencies have closely examined their operations and expenditures to identify potential cost efficiencies.

The Kings County Superior Court faces a budget deficit of approximately \$1.3 million in this fiscal year of 2012-2013, which started on July 1, 2012. This is the most severe fiscal crisis that the Court has experienced. Furloughs, layoffs, some salary freezes, and a Court closure have already been undertaken to address the Court's current fiscal emergency. Additional steps are, however, still required. After much consideration, it has been determined that the closure of the Court's Avenal and Corcoran Divisions, and the limiting of hours and staff of the Hanford Division, between December 24, 2012 and January 1, 2013, presents the least amount of inconvenience to the public while offering necessary cost-savings and administrative benefits to the Court.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 68106, the Superior Court of Kings County hereby gives notice of its proposed intent to temporarily close all courtrooms and Clerks' Offices at the Avenal and Corcoran Courthouses between December 24, 2012 and January 1, 2013. In addition, the court proposes to reduce the hours and staffing of the Hanford Courthouse, as follows:

1. On December 24, 2012, the Hanford Courthouse will close at noon. There will be no hearings nor other proceedings scheduled after 12:00 p.m. on December 24, 2012. The Clerk's Office will close at 12:00 p.m., however, a filing drop box will be available and documents deposited therein before 4:00 p.m. on December 24, 2012 will be deemed filed on that date. Documents received after 4:00 p.m. on December 24, 2012, will be deemed filed on December 26, 2012.
2. On December 26, 2012 through December 31, 2012, staffing of all departments of the Hanford Courthouse will be reduced. The court intends to conduct only emergency proceedings in a maximum of two courtrooms during this period. Non-emergency proceedings will not be calendared for hearing during this period and any non-emergency proceedings already scheduled for a date falling on or between December 26, 2012 and December 31, 2012, *may* be rescheduled. Notice will be given to all parties regarding any rescheduled matter. During this period of reduced staffing, the hours of operation of the Clerk's Office will not change; however, longer processing and response times may be experienced.
3. On December 25, 2012 and January 1, 2013, the Hanford Courthouse will be closed to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, respectively. Regular operations and staffing levels will be restored in all Divisions of the Kings County Superior Court on January 2, 2013.

Any interested person or entity wishing to comment on the court's plan of action should direct the same on or before November 1, 2012 to Todd H. Barton, Court Executive Officer at 1426 South Drive, Superior Court, Hanford, California, 93230. You may also send your comments via email to tbarton@kings.courts.ca.gov. All public input will be considered.