

**MARIPOSA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
COVID-19
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: Is the courthouse open to the public?

A: No. However, you may call the court at (209) 966-2005 between 8 am and 5 pm with your questions about your matter or about anything else.

Q: What do I do if I have a court date on a criminal matter that is between March 23 and April 17, 2020?

A: If you have an attorney, contact your attorney to find out your new court date. Do not come to court. If you do not have an attorney, call the court.

Q: What if I want to put my matter on calendar between March 23 and April 17, 2020?

A: You will not be able to obtain a court date between March 23 and April 17, 2020. You may contact the court after April 19, 2020 to obtain a new court date.

Q: What do I do if I have a juvenile delinquency court date between March 23 and April 17, 2020?

A: All juvenile delinquency hearings between March 23 and April 17, 2020 have been continued. Call your attorney or the court to obtain your new court date.

Q: How do I pay for my fine if the court is closed?

A: You can mail your payment to Mariposa Superior Court, P.O. Box 28, Mariposa, CA 95338. You can also pay online at www.mariposacourt.org.

Q: I have a citation for a traffic matter with a court date during the time the court is closed. What do I do?

A: All traffic matter hearings scheduled for the period of March 23 through April 19, 2020 are being postponed. You will be receiving a notice in the mail with the new court hearing date and time. You may still, without coming to the court, have a Trial by Declaration.

Q: I have a fine payment due during the time the court is closed, and I need an extension for the payment. What do I do?

A: Contact the court at (209) 966-2005 or (209) 966-5711 and ask for an extension.

Q: I have been laid off and I can't afford to pay my fines. What can I do?

A: You can call the court and ask for an extension of fine payments or ask that your fines be converted to community service.

Q: How do I file a request for a restraining order if the clerk's office is closed?

A: You can mail your request to P.O. Box 28, Mariposa, CA 95338, fax it to (209) 742-6860 or email it to COVID19@mariposacourt.org. If your need is urgent call the court at (209) 966-2005 for special instructions.

Q: How do I appear for mediation if the court is closed?

A: The Family Law Mediator will be conducting telephonic mediations between March 23 and April 19, 2020. Please call the family court clerk at (209) 966-6599 and leave the phone number you would like to be called at on the date of your scheduled mediation.

Q: If my child and/or I must shelter in place, how do I comply with child custody and visitation orders?

A: Unfortunately, that is a legal question as to whether your situation involves an exception to shelter in place orders issued by any county or by the State of California. Since the Court is prohibited from giving legal advice, you may wish to seek legal advice.

However, the Court always encourages parties to meet and confer in an attempt to resolve areas of potential dispute. (So long as there is no court order restraining contact.) The best interests of the children should be paramount in this public health crisis and we encourage all to try to reach agreement, if you can, on any modifications of visitation plans needed to ensure the safety of children and their parents in compliance with shelter in place orders.

Q: How do I file civil, probate, or family law documents while the court is closed?

A: If you need to complete legal paperwork you can get forms and information at www.courts.ca.gov. You can also use a free program to assist you that can be found at www.sharpcourts.org.

Completed documents can be either mailed, faxed to the court at (209) 742-6860 or emailed to COVID19@mariposacourt.org. Call the court at (209) 966-2005 if you have any questions.

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