

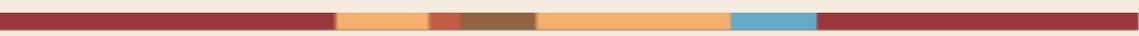
Family Court Updates Under COVID-19

Julianna Lee
Supervising Attorney



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Relevant Court Orders

March 17th Order – LA Superior Court

March 19th Amendment – LA Superior Court

March 23rd Order – LA Superior Court

March 30th Order – California Chief Justice

April 6th – California Judicial Council Emergency Rules

April 14th – LA Superior Court Order

Available at <http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/covid19NewsCenter.aspx>

Status of the Family Court

The court is **open** just for time-sensitive essential functions.

For family court, that includes:

1. Temporary Restraining Order application
2. Restraining Order hearings
3. Ex Parte/Emergency applications
4. Hague Convention cases

For everything else, the court is **closed** until May 12. That includes pending non-emergency hearings, non-urgent requests for modifications, and new family law filings

Non-Emergency Hearings and Filings

Except as mentioned earlier, hearings scheduled to occur during the closure period will be continued

The court is triaging all pending and newly filed matters into priority categories, with matters involving physical safety at the highest priority

LA Superior Court's tentative date to resume "normal operations" is June 22. Even then, social distancing will be observed and the ramp-up will be gradual

Parties with pending matters should expect notification from the court as matters are reviewed and set for calendar

Changes to the Domestic Violence Restraining Order Application Process

The substance remains the same

All court-based assistance with DVRO/TRO applications has moved to remote

- Free legal services are available via hotlines, email, online intake to assist with applications. Self-help also available (see appendix for resources)
- Expect longer processing times both to complete an application and to have them processed by the court

Emergency Protective Orders (EPOs) may be a good option

- EPOs can offer protection while a DVRO application is being completed or while awaiting adjudication of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO)
- EPOs can issue for up to 30 days

Major Updates: DVRO Process

Filing:

- Electronic signatures accepted
- Fax Filing eased

Service: Assistance from Sheriffs continues

Appearances:

- Interpretation services remain available
- Expansion of remote options: CourtCall & Webex

Remedies: Extension of TROs for up to 90 days

Filing a DVRO Application

In Person Filing at the Courthouse:

- Get in the “Case on Calendar Today” line
- Do not leave the documents in the Drop Box outside the court
- Leave contact information for how the court can reach you to pick up your documents once processed

Fax Filing:

- Include the court’s fax cover sheet (Form MC-005)
- No fee to fax file a DVRO application
- Court is not enforcing 10-page limit
- Court policy is to process papers then fax back them back to applicant.

Either Way:

- Filings earlier in the day are more likely to be processed that day
- Parties may sign DVRO applications using electronic signatures. (JC Emergency Rule 8(c)(2))

Service of Process: The Sheriff's Department

The LA Sheriff's office is still assisting with service of TROs and of DVRO documents

If You File at the Courthouse: the Sheriff's office should still be open for service requests

If the Office is Closed or If You Fax File:

- You may request service by emailing the Sheriff's Department (csdwebmail@lasd.org) with a copy of the granted TRO, the associated documents, and a signed request for service for service form
- A blank request form is available here:
<http://civil.lasd.org/CivilProcess/Searchaddr2.aspx?FormType=12&status=0> (click on "get blank form")
(also included in the appendix)

Service of Process: Evasions of Service

Personal service can be more difficult during the pandemic

If there is evidence that the respondent is evading service and the survivor has exhausted all options for personal service, you may request alternative service, such as by first-class mail to the respondent's home or place of employment. (Family Code 6340(a)(2))

Continuances for Hearings & Extensions of Temporary Restraining Orders

Continuances: During this closure period, the court is likely to continue DVRO hearings, especially if the parties agree. But continuances are not automatic. In fact, justice can require a hearing to proceed on whether a long-term DVRO should issue, as when:

- The court did not grant a TRO and the petitioner is wary of waiting 3 months for a determination off the DVRO request
- There is a TRO that involves significant restrictions, a move-out order, and/or separation from one's children

Extensions: Any TRO (or gun violence EPO) issued or set to expire during the pandemic can be continued for up to 90 days. (JC Emergency Rules 8(b)(2))

Interpretation Services Should Be Available



How to “Appear” for a Hearing: Option 1 -- In Person

The court’s March 23rd Order restricts access to the court except for parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons

- A survivor can bring a support person
- The court strongly discourages bringing minor children but if necessary, they will also be admitted

Due to additional security and screening measures, best to go to court early and expect delays passing through security

How to “Appear” for a Hearing Option 2 -- CourtCall

CourtCall is the vendor with whom the court has contracted for telephonic appearances. The process for using CourtCall includes:

Telephonic Request Form (FL-679): Note that the court is not enforcing the requirement to file 12 court days in advance

Fee Waiver Forms (FW-001 and FW-002):

- Normal fee is \$54/appearance
- Fee waiver requires requesting both fee waiver forms

Contact CourtCall

- Provide a copy of the approved fee waiver
- Coordinate phone appearance prior to the hearing date

How to “Appear” for a Hearing Option 3 -- WebEx

Limited Availability: WebEx is currently available in Departments 18 and 22 at Stanley Mosk

Platforms: WebEx is accessible via computer and smartphone

Beware: Consider confidentiality and security concerns for survivors, particularly at shelters

Ex Parte Family Law Applications

Email Filing: Each courthouses in which the family law division has court operations has set up a resource account for receiving emailed ex parte applications (email addresses listed in appendix)

Limit: This is **not** an option for TRO/DVRO applications.

Standard Is Very High: An ex parte requires a showing of immediate harm to the child or of immediate risk that the child will be removed from the State of California (Family Code 3064)

Thank You!

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-399-4529, ext. 8097

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jolee@lafla.org
323-801-7939



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1550 W. 8th St. | Los Angeles, CA 90017
Los Angeles, CA 90014

☎ 800-399-4529

✉ info@lafla.org

Resource Account Email Addresses

Antelope Valley Courthouse

ATP-ExParte@lacourt.org

Chatsworth Courthouse

CHA-ExParte@lacourt.org

Compton Courthouse

COM-ExParte@lacourt.org

Long Beach Courthouse

LBC-ExParte@lacourt.org

Pasadena Courthouse

PAS-ExParte@lacourt.org

Pomona Courthouse

POM-ExParte@lacourt.org

Santa Monica Courthouse

SAM-ExParte@lacourt.org

Stanley Mosk

SMC-ExParte@lacourt.org

Torrance

TOR-ExParte@lacourt.org

Van Nuys - East

VNE-ExParte@lacourt.org

Whittier

WHI-ExParte@lacourt.org

L.A. Domestic Violence Legal Resources

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Helplines are open, live hours between 10am and 3pm.

Limited staffing for representation.

Phone:

Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese): 800.520.2356

Korean: 800.867.3640

Thai: 800.914.9583

Tagalog: 855.300.2552

English: 888.349.9695 (warmline, leave a message and an advocate will call back within 24 hours)

Break the Cycle

Intake for qualifying individuals (age 12-24, Los Angeles County, survivor of relationship abuse)

Intake Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Phone or Text: 424.209.2532

Online form: <https://forms.gle/xktUayhvQ6mwPFvVA>

Community Legal Aid SoCal

Hotline is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday

Phone: 800.834.5001

DV Clinics at Compton and Whittier Courthouses call hotline or send emails to:

Email: DVComptonMail@clsocal.org

Email: DVWhittierMail@clsocal.org

Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law

Call and leave a message with a safe contact phone number at 213-388-7515 for domestic violence and family law assistance

Jenesse Centera

Hotline open 24/7

Phone: 800.479.7328

Legal Services: M-F 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

After hours please leave a message at x157.

Calls will be returned within 48 hours.

Phone: 323.299.9496 x157

LA LGBT Center

Walk-in hours cancelled until further notice.

General telephonic intake at (323)993-7670.

Legal Advocacy Project for Survivors' warm line: (323)993-7649.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

DV hotline: 1.800.399.4529 x8097 (MWF, 9am-3pm)

General hotline (including DV):

1.800.399.4529 (M-F)

Online intake: <https://lafla.org/get-help/>

L.A. Domestic Violence Legal Resources

Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center

Application can be found at

www.levittquinn.org/services. Submit application via email or fax. Staff will follow up via phone.

Email: intake@levittquinn.org

LGBTQ Center Long Beach Legal Services

Intake by phone.

Phone: 562.433.8595.

Los Angeles Center for Law And Justice

E-mail services@lajl.org or call 323-980-3500 to apply for legal services related to restraining orders or urgent family law or immigration legal matters.

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

Hotline, callers can leave messages for a return call.

Phone: 800.433.6251

Peace Over Violence

Office contact information for legal services:

Pasadena Phone: 626.584.6191

Downtown LA Phone: 213.955.9090

Pepperdine Legal Clinic (serving DV victims only)

Available for intakes (information, brief advice and counsel only)

Fridays 10 am – 1 pm

New callers can leave messages at 310-506-6344

Rainbow Services

Hotline intakes for legal, case management, housing, and shelter services.

Phone: 310.547.9343

Sojourn

All services accessed through the 24 hour hotline.

Phone: 310.264.6644

YWCA Glendale

Call the office number (818) 242-4155 and ask for legal or ext. 233 or e-mail:

karengreenrose@glendaleywca.org

Self-Help Resources

Los Angeles Superior Court Self-Help: (213) 830-0845

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Self-Help:

Litigants with urgent issues can call self-help staff at 213-235-0060, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Monday–Friday, and 1:30–4 p.m., Monday–Thursday.

NLSLA Self Help Legal Access Centers:

Locations at Los Angeles Superior Courthouses in Chatsworth, Pomona, Van Nuys, and Lancaster will be closed to the public, but can still help with Restraining Orders, Answers to Eviction (Unlawful Detainers), and some family law. We cannot help with other services at this time.

For assistance please call the following numbers, Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 4:30pm, and Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm.

- Chatsworth: 818-485-0571, CSHpublic@nlsla.org
- Pomona: 818-485-0572, PSHpublic@nlsla.org
- Antelope Valley: 818-485-0573, AVSHpublic@nlsla.org
- Van Nuys: 818-485-0574, VNSHpublic@nlsla.org
- Pasadena: PasadenaUDpublic@nlsla.org (no phone available)

QR Code connects to Los Angeles Domestic Violence Restraining Order Petition Packets



Fax Filing Numbers

District	Courthouse	Facsimile Telephone #
Central District	Stanley Mosk Courthouse	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Claims (Room 113) • General Jurisdiction-Complex (Room 102) 	(442) 247-3752 (442) 247-3769
	Stanley Mosk Courthouse (Family Law)	(213) 633-1955
	Central Civil West (Family Law)	(442) 247-3946
East District	Pomona South (Family Law)	(562) 753-0655
	West Covina (Small Claims)	(562) 753-0097
North District	Antelope Valley	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Small Claims 	(562) 753-0441 (562) 753-0443
North Valley District	Chatsworth	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Small Claims 	(562) 753 0347 (562) 753-0346
Northeast District	Pasadena	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Small Claims 	(562) 753-0465 (562) 753-0488
Northwest District	Van Nuys	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Claims • Family Law 	(562) 753-0319 (562) 753-0315
South District	Long Beach	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law • Small Claims 	(562) 753-0921
South Central District	Compton (Small Claims)	(562) 753-0958
Southeast District	Whittier (Family Law)	(562) 753-0560
	Bellflower (Small Claims)	(562) 753-0076
Southwest District	Torrance (Family Law)	(562) 637-0731
	Inglewood (Small Claims)	(562) 753-0387
West District	Santa Monica (TRO/Domestic Violence TRO/Small Claims)	(562) 753-0581

*Pursuant to Local Rule 2.22, the Court will not accept any document via facsimile filing in any location other than the Clerk's Office of the court location where the document is required to be filed.

L.A. Sheriff's Department Service Request Form

SHERIFF'S INSTRUCTIONS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE AND ZIP: _____ TELEPHONE: _____	 Alex Villanueva, Sheriff
COURT COURT NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ PLAINTIFF: _____ DEFENDANT: _____ CASE NO: _____	
SHERIFF'S BRANCH OFFICE BRANCH NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ LEVYING OFFICER NO: _____	
To the Los Angeles County Sheriff, you are instructed to: Serve the attached Request for Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DV100), Notice of Court Hearing (DV109), Temporary Restraining Order (DV110), blank Response to Request for Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DV120), blank Proof of Service by Mail (DV250), and applicable attachments. <small>ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO BE SERVED:</small> _____ _____ _____ <small>PERSON TO BE SERVED:</small> RESTRAINED PERSON: _____ NAME OF BUSINESS (IF ANY): _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE AND ZIP: _____ <small>COMMENTS (WORK HOURS, TELEPHONE, VEHICLE, ETC.):</small> _____ _____ _____	
<small>All instructions must be submitted by the above attorney or party (if no attorney). All correspondence will be sent to said party.</small>	

Thank You!

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1-800-399-4529, ext. 8097

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