



UPDATE RE LAW AND MOTION MATTERS

Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, leading to health and safety concerns, and the Order of the Presiding Judge regarding the San Mateo Superior Court's response to the emergency, the Court will not be hearing Law and Motion matters from, at least, March 17 through April 7, 2020.

Because the Court is operating at reduced staffing levels through April 7, 2020, we anticipate that Law and Motion hearings will not be heard until after April 7, 2020. Therefore, all Law and Motion matters are continued and will need to be rescheduled.

The Civil Law and Motion department will be operational as soon as public health officers inform us that it is safe to hold hearings. Please check back to this website on Monday, April 6, 2020 for further information.

It is the current intent of the Court to continue the Law and Motion calendars, which have not been held, for a certain number of days (which date the Court will set) and request that the moving party provide notice of this new date. In this way, the matters will be heard in the same order as originally calendared. The Court will also have a procedure where counsel can request to advance matters. Since the Court does not know the exact date when Law and Motion hearings can start, the Court does not want to reschedule the hearings and then have to reschedule them again. Once Law and Motion hearings begin, the Court strongly recommends that counsel appear by Court Call.

Counsel are encouraged to meet-and-confer with their opposing counsel to see if resolutions can be reached regarding their motions without the need for court intervention. They can email the Law and Motion Department at LawAndMotion@sanmateocourt.org if a matter is being vacated. See Local Rule 3.9(c) for procedure. The email is not to be used for any other purpose at this time and is not currently being monitored.

The San Mateo Superior Court is continuing to balance public safety and health while protecting liberty and due process, and reaffirms our commitment to maintain access to justice and protect the communities we serve. The Court appreciates the parties' continuing cooperation and professionalism during these unprecedented times.