

Charles H. Ervin
PRESIDING JUDGE



Ann Mendez
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jason LaChance
COMMISSIONER

Superior Court of California, County of Sierra
100 Courthouse Square, P.O. Box 476, Downieville, CA 95936
Telephone: 530-289-3698 Fax: 530-289-0205
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July 1, 2022

*******PUBLIC NOTICE*******

Pursuant to Government Code section 68106 the Court hereby gives notice of changes in court operations. The contemplated changes conform with the Governor's executive orders and California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA)'s revised COVID-19 regulations with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). These changes will be in effect until further notice.

The courtroom is currently open for in-person appearances by parties, counsel, witnesses, victims, and observers. The Court will continue to take reasonable safety precautions to keep the public, court staff and judicial officers safe.

Current guidance for court operations may be obtained as indicated below.

Criminal Court:

- As of July 1, 2022, and until January 1, 2024, all misdemeanor and felony appearances will be accomplished in person. Designated hearing appearances may be permitted via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases.
- Defendants, attorneys, and/or witnesses intending to appear via Zoom are requested to file [Request for Remote Appearance: Criminal](#) at least 10 days prior to the court date. Please visit [Remote Zoom Hearings](#) for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone.
- For further information regarding payment of fines and fees, go to [Online Payments](#).

Civil, Family Law, Juvenile, and case types other than Criminal or Traffic:

The Sierra Superior Court has modified court operations to implement Code of Civil Procedure, section 367.75, which authorizes trial courts to conduct civil, family, and juvenile proceedings through the use of remote technology effective January 1, 2022.

Notice of scheduling requirements are defined by evidentiary or non-evidentiary hearings. You can find the updated procedures and links to the new forms on the [California Courts website](#).

- As of January 7, 2022, and until further notice, all Civil, Family Law, Juvenile and case type appearances other than Criminal or Traffic may be accomplished in person, and designated hearing appearances may be permitted via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases.
- Parties, attorneys, and/or witnesses intending to appear via Zoom are requested to file [Notice of Remote Appearance](#) at least 10 days prior to the court date. Please visit [Remote Zoom Hearings](#) for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone.

Traffic Court:

- As of July 1, 2022, and until January 1, 2024, all traffic infractions, trials and motions will be accomplished in person. Designated hearing appearances may be permitted via Zoom.
- Parties should contact their attorneys for information regarding appearance guidance for their cases.
- Defendants, attorneys, and/or witnesses intending to appear via Zoom are requested to file [Request for Remote Appearance: Criminal](#) at least 10 days prior to the court date. Please visit [Remote Zoom Hearings](#) for information about appearing via Zoom or telephone.
- For further information regarding payment of fines and fees, go to [Online Payments](#).

Court Clerk's Office:

Court staff is available by phone and email during normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Court Clerk's Office Public Counter is open to the public during normal business hours of: 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Filings are also being accepted by mail, overnight delivery service or fax filing services. Filings by mail or overnight delivery service will require a self-addressed stamped envelope, if endorsed copies are desired. All filings will be filed on the date received, if received by 4:00 p.m. Any endorsed copies will be returned within two (2) business days. Any temporary emergency order issued by a judge will be emailed to the requesting party.

Self-Help:

- Assistance is available for self-represented litigants. Please contact Self-Help Attorney and Family Law Facilitator, Ingrid Larson at (530) 289-3654 or by email at cingridlarson@gmail.com.
- Additional online resources are available at www.sharpcourts.org or www.courts.ca.gov.