

Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF
SAN LUIS OBISPO



Jacquelyn H. Duffy, Presiding Judge
Michael Powell, Executive Officer

Courthouse Annex
1035 Palm St., Rm 385
San Luis Obispo, California 93408
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Court COVID-19 Information:

<https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/4802.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 21, 2020

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County announces the resumption of criminal jury trials.

In response to COVID-19, on March 23, 2020, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye issued an order effectively suspending all jury trials for 60 days. On April 29, 2020, the Chief Justice issued an order allowing 30 additional days to conduct a criminal trial but stressed: "Courts are strongly encouraged to collaborate with local justice partners to conduct a trial at an earlier date, if a court may do so in compliance with applicable health and safety laws, regulations, and orders."

Consistent with the order of the Chief Justice, the San Luis Obispo Superior Court will resume criminal jury trials on June 15, 2020. Jurors will shortly be receiving summons to appear during the week of June 15, 2020.

Presiding Judge Jacquelyn Duffy said, "Jurors perform a critical role in providing access to justice. We are extremely grateful to our community members who will be performing this essential function."

In preparation for summoning jurors, the Court is implementing several measures to ensure the safety of all court users, including jurors:

1. Online questionnaires will allow jurors to request to be excused for hardship prior to reporting in person to the courthouse.
2. Substantially smaller panels of jurors will be summoned to allow for appropriate physical distancing and other safeguards.
3. Jurors will be summoned at different times and on different days to reduce the number of jurors appearing at any one time.
4. Physical distancing will be maintained throughout the entire jury trial process.
5. Face coverings will be strongly recommended for all participants, and the Court will provide masks as needed.
6. Larger courtrooms and alternative venues will be used for jury selection and jury deliberations.
7. Fewer trials will be in session at the same time to reduce the number of people in the courthouse.
8. During trials, jurors will be seated and spaced apart in the entire courtroom to ensure physical distancing.
9. Jury deliberations will occur in the courtroom or an alternate venue rather than in jury rooms, to ensure physical distancing.

Summoned jurors who have health concerns related to COVID-19 will be allowed to defer their service to a future date. Prospective jurors should expect an e-mail from the court with more detailed information about their service