

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES INDEFINITE EXTENSION OF LIMITED SERVICE DAYS

SAN FRANCISCO -- Uncertainty over the unresolved Fiscal Year 2011-2012 state budget combined with a deficit for the fourth consecutive fiscal year has led the San Francisco Superior Court to extend Limited Service Days in all of its clerks' offices beyond July 8, 2011, Court Executive Officer T. Michael Yuen announced today.

"The Court prefers not to limit access to justice in this way," Yuen said. "However, this is an unfortunate step that must be taken in the absence of a state budget that adequately funds the Court."

Since January 21, 2011, the Court has closed all of its clerks' offices at 12 p.m. each Friday. These Limited Service Days were scheduled to end on July 8, 2011. However, the Court has found it necessary to extend Limited Service Days on Fridays indefinitely.

The Court's workforce has been reduced by 18 percent through attrition compared to three years ago. During this time, the Court has been forced to absorb funding cuts and expenditure increases totaling \$13.2 million. A hiring freeze has been in place since April 2009.

The following clerks' offices will close each Friday at Noon:

- Civil Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., Civic Center Courthouse, Room 103;

- Unified Family Court Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., Room 402;
- Criminal Clerk's Office, 850 Bryant St., Hall of Justice, Room 101;
- Traffic Court Division, 850 Bryant St., HOJ, Room 145; and
- Juvenile Delinquency Clerk's Office, 375 Woodside Ave., Youth Guidance Center, Room 101.

Drop boxes will be available outside each main entrance of all clerks' offices between 12 p.m. and close of business. Documents received in the drop boxes by close of business will be processed with a same-day filing date.

Yuen said the indefinite extension of Limited Service Days will exacerbate the noticeable impacts from closing the clerks' offices early on Friday afternoons.

"The public has experienced less access to our clerks' offices to pay fines and fees, file lawsuits and other documents, and receive help with questions about their court cases," Yuen said. "We have been forced to close some civil departments to allow for shifting of resources to accommodate all mandatory criminal, family and juvenile matters."

Since January, Court employees have been taking furloughs one Friday per month to coincide with the Limited Service Days. These furloughs will save the Court \$1.1 million, according to Yuen.

The Court is currently negotiating four of its six labor agreements.

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