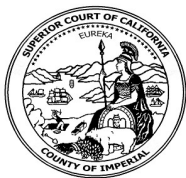


# PRESS RELEASE



## *SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL*

El Centro, California – Due to the recent COVID-19 surge, the Superior Court of California, County of Imperial will be returning to the following precautionary measures in an effort to reduce the number of persons gathering within the building and possible exposures for court staff, judicial officers, litigants, attorneys and members of the public.

All Imperial County Courthouses effective Monday, January 10, 2022, will restrict access to those members of the public that have business in the courthouse as follows:

- You must have a case on calendar to enter the courthouse and courtroom.
- Attorneys entering any courthouses must have a matter on calendar or going to a clerk's office or the Law Library.
- Witnesses will be allowed to enter and must be prepared to state which courtroom he or she will be appearing.
- Friends, family, and other companions are not allowed to enter the courthouses unless specifically permitted by law, e.g. victim support person or on order of any judge within his or her sole discretion.
- Anyone with a jury summons may enter as instructed in their reporting instructions and any subsequent instructions for the duration of their jury service.
- The media may continue to enter the courthouses and courtrooms during this period.

All non-confidential matters continue to be available for members of the public to listen. Broadcasts of calendars may be accessed at <https://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/online-services/court-live-streams>.

El Centro Courthouse offices – Access to the Civil Clerk's office, Small Claims Advisor, Access Center, and Law Library will be by appointment only. Appointments may be made by visiting the Court's website at <https://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/online-services/appointments>. The Civil Clerk's office will continue to be open and accessible with or without appointment for emergency items such as restraining orders, Ex-parte Custody Orders, Emergency Petitions for Temporary Guardianship or conservatorship, emergency orders relating to the health and safety of a child, and/ or other matters necessary to protect public safety.

Remaining offices such as the Criminal Clerk's office, Traffic, and Jury Commissioner's office will remain open without change at this time.

Brawley and Winterhaven Clerk's Offices – Persons may enter the Brawley and Winterhaven courthouses to conduct business at the Brawley or Winterhaven Clerk's offices during the hours those offices are open.

The Court will continue to maintain its safety protocols and compliance with all state and local COVID guidelines/mandates. This is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those that work at or enter its courthouses, while keeping essential services open and available safely ensuring equal access to justice.