

**Superior Court of California  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**



Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge

Charles Smiley, Assistant Presiding Judge

Chad Finke, Executive Officer

René C. Davidson Courthouse

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[www.alameda.courts.ca.gov](http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Superior Court of Alameda County enacts new emergency Local Rule and Local Rule amendments to facilitate the resumption of Court services during the COVID-19 crisis, posts traffic court FAQ and begins accepting some traffic documents via drop box.

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On April 21, 2020, the Judicial Executive Committee of the Superior Court of Alameda County (Court) approved the adoption of new emergency Local Rule 5.38, which expands the opportunity for emergency restraining order hearings, and multiple amendments to its Local Rules and emergency Local Rules to adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. All of these rules are effective as of April 22, 2020 and are linked on both the Court's [COVID-19 web page](#) and the Court's [Local Rules](#) page.

Specifically, the amendments to Local Rule 3.30 and emergency Local Rules 1.8a, 3.29, 4.115, 5.27, 5.6, and 5.66 are designed to facilitate the Court's ongoing resumption of numerous services—despite the Court's general closure to the public—during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, the amendments:

- Provide additional guidance on the conduct of remote hearings;
- Clarify that the Court will accept requests to renew, modify, withdraw, or terminate restraining orders via fax or drop box;
- Detail how the public may obtain tentative rulings; and
- Make an additional clarification to the Court's local Emergency Bail Schedule.

In addition, the Court adopted new emergency Local Rule 5.38 in anticipation of its plan to start conducting a limited number of emergency hearings on requests for temporary restraining orders the week of May 4, 2020.

The Court has also updated its [COVID-19 web page](#) with a link to a new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) list pertaining to traffic court. As noted in the FAQ, effective immediately the Court will begin accepting requests to waive time for traffic trials, and requests to appear at traffic trials via remote video appearance, via drop box at the East County Hall of Justice in Dublin, Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland, and Fremont Hall of Justice. Those requests can also be submitted via email to [AskTraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov](mailto:AskTraffic@alameda.courts.ca.gov).

Within the parameters of public health directives and available resources, the Court will continue its efforts to expand both the number of services offered to the public and the avenues of access to those services. Future updates on those efforts will be made through additional press releases and updates to the Court's COVID-19 web page.