

Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne

PUBLIC NOTICE

May 23, 2012

Notice of Reduction in Operating Hours – All Clerk's Offices will Close at 3:00 p.m.

Effective July 30, 2012

Pursuant to Government Code Section 68106, and rule 10.620(f)(6) of the California Rules of Court, the Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne is providing 60 days notice of the court's decision to reduce the hours for the public filing windows and telephones in the clerk's offices.

Effective **Monday, July 30, 2012**, the hours of the clerk's office filing windows and telephones will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This change reduces the number of hours the clerk's office filing windows and telephones are currently open to the public (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). A document drop box will be available inside both court locations to permit the same-day filing of documents deposited before 5:00 p.m.

The Tuolumne Superior Court determined a reduction in hours was necessary due to ongoing and anticipated reductions to the court's budget. As a part of the Judicial Branch of government, the Superior Court receives its annual budget allocation through the Judicial Council of California, which is an entity funded by the state. Due to the state's budget crisis, the amount of funding the trial courts receive from the Judicial Council has significantly decreased in recent years. As of fiscal year 2011-12, \$623,744 has been cut from the budget of the Tuolumne Superior Court. The court expects these reductions to be ongoing, and anticipates even deeper cuts in 2012/2013.

In the current fiscal year (2011-12), court funding was reduced by 6.8%. The court anticipates a budget reduction in excess of 15% in fiscal year 2012-13. As a result of these ongoing funding reductions, the court has instituted various cost saving measures, including freezing vacancies, implementing mandatory unpaid furloughs, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reducing expenditures for services and supplies.

Staffing in the clerk's offices has been significantly impacted by unfilled vacancies and furloughs. A reduction in the hours the clerk's offices will be open to the public will help court staff to timely process cases and prepare court calendars.

The public may provide written comments no later than July 23, 2012, on the court's plan for reducing the hours of the clerk's office filing windows and telephones. Written comments may be directed to the Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne, 41 W. Yaney, Sonora, CA 95370, or by email to joyce@tuolumne.courts.ca.gov.