



PRESS RELEASE

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THE VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT REMAINS OPEN

DURING SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION 721 STRIKE

**SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF
VENTURA**

800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
805.289.8900

www.ventura.courts.ca.gov

Matthew P. Guasco
Presiding Judge

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Kate Bieker
*Court Executive Officer,
Clerk of the Court and Jury
Commissioner*

VENTURA, CA — The Ventura Superior Court (Court) will remain open during the Service Employees International Union 721 (SEIU) one-day strike, which takes place tomorrow, Tuesday, October 20, 2026. If you have been summoned for jury duty, please report as instructed. Except as noted below, the Clerk's Offices will be closed, and services will be limited during the SEIU strike. The Court will prioritize its limited staff resources to provide the greatest degree of services possible.

IMPORTANT: If you have a court matter scheduled for Tuesday October 20, 2026, please check the Court's website to confirm your matter is still on calendar. If it has been changed, you can confirm your new hearing date by accessing your court record online. You will also receive notice from the court with the rescheduled date and time. Cases scheduled at our East County location (Simi Valley) will be continued. In addition to the online case inquiry, a calendar will be posted on the East County door, indicating the date of the continuance. Please visit: [Case Inquiry | Superior Court of California | County of Ventura](#)

Members of the public can file through eFiling (<https://ventura.courts.ca.gov/online-services/efiling>) or eDelivery (<https://ventura.courts.ca.gov/online-services/edelivery>), or by using the drop-boxes at each Court location. Members of the public can also consider filing in person at a later date, if doing so will not affect any deadlines in their case. The Court will monitor the drop-boxes several times a day and process urgent matters.

COURT'S STATEMENT: "The Ventura Superior Court will be open on Tuesday October 20, 2026, with limited services to the public. While we will focus our resources on receiving court filings and hearing matters involving civil liberties, restraining orders, cases impacting juveniles and children, and other emergency matters, we remain open for all case types," stated Kate Bieker, Court Executive Officer. "Our court staff, including over 200 of whom are represented by SEIU Local 721, are dedicated public servants who devote themselves to providing equal access to justice for our community. The Union's accusations that the Court has engaged in unfair labor practices or has violated the law are reckless, false, and harmful to the Court's reputation and its relationship

with its employees. The Court prides itself on upholding the rule of law in all that we do. The Court has scrupulously followed all labor laws in its dealings with the Union and its employee members. The Court has made an offer to our employees of a 9% increase over 3 years, with possibly more in the 3rd year, with additional increases to medical benefits and time off.” Bieker adds, “It is our hope that the Court and the Union can reach an agreement soon so the Court and its employees can focus on the important work of providing justice to all.”

- For Tuesday, October 20, 2026:
 - **Hall of Justice:** All Clerk’s Offices with the exception of the Criminal/Traffic walk-up window will be closed to the public. The Criminal/Traffic walk-up window will be open to accept the following: traffic payments.
Ex Parte requests for Restraining Orders (Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Workplace Violence, School Violence, and Retail Theft) and Gun Violence Protective Orders may be submitted by email at EmergencyRestrainingOrdersFamilyandCivil@ventura.courts.ca.gov or placed in the drop-box.
All mediation matters scheduled with Family Court Services will take place as scheduled.
The Family Law Facilitator and the Self-Help Legal Access Center will be open to assist self-represented litigants.
 - **Juvenile Justice Center:** The Clerk’s Office will be open in a limited capacity to accept and process ex-parte requests for Civil Harassment matters, only.
 - **East County (Simi Valley):** The Clerk’s Office will be closed.

All essential, emergency and/or time-sensitive filings will be routed to the appropriate Clerk’s Office for immediate processing. Filings that are deposited in a drop-box Monday through Friday, before 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays, will be filed the date they are received. Filings that are deposited in the drop box after 4:00 p.m. will be filed the next **business day**. There will be no interruption to Mandatory eFiling or eDelivery services.

- All Clerk’s Offices will be unavailable to answer phone lines on October 20, 2026.
- The Family Resource Center (Juvenile Justice Center) and the Children’s Waiting Rooms will be closed.

The following are deemed essential emergency and/or time-sensitive in nature:

- Criminal Misdemeanor and Felony matters as designated by the Presiding Judge.
- All Jury/Court Trials in which the statutory deadline for trying the case would expire if the case was not tried.
- Any and all motions in which the statutory deadline for hearing the motion would expire, or the Court would otherwise lose jurisdiction.
- All Unlawful Detainer matters on calendar for hearing.

- Ex-parte requests for Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, Elder Abuse, Workplace Violence, School Violence, and Retail Theft Restraining Orders, as well as Gun Violence Protective Orders.
- Family Law Emergency Orders, including Emergency Custody Orders.
- Emergency ex-parte Lockout Proceedings (Unlawful Detainer).
- Juvenile Temporary Restraining Orders and other Emergency Juvenile Orders.
- Emergency Probate Orders, including Emergency Conservatorships and Emergency Guardianships.

Parties seeking emergency orders in Family, Civil, or Probate shall reserve an emergency ex-parte hearing by contacting judicial chambers for the department.

Please visit the Court's website for updates on services offered on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

The Court remains open to meeting in good faith with SEIU to reach a fair contract that supports our employees, enhances access to justice, reflects stewardship of public funds, and allows the Court to operate in light of available State funding.

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