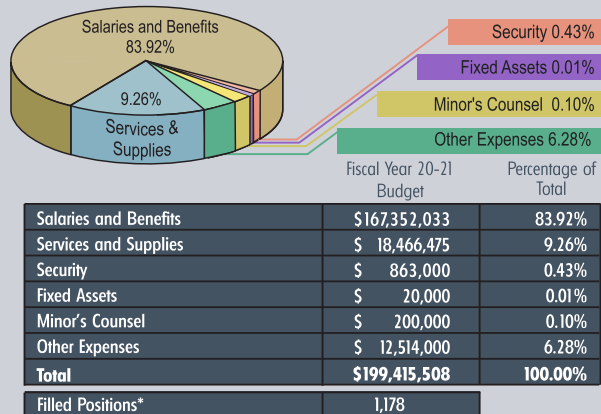


## BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



\* As of 01/01/22

**Salaries and Benefits** - Salaries and benefits of all court employees, except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

**Services and Supplies** - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

**Security** - In FY 11-12, as a result of Trial Court Security Realignment (AB 118), sheriff-related security costs for courtroom security and perimeter security were transferred to the County of San Diego. The remaining security costs in the court budget include such areas as after-hours security for facilities and security equipment maintenance.

**Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).

**Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.

**Other Expenses** - Includes payments of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

## FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (Fiscal Year 2020/2021), total filings for all case types were nearly 280,000.

CASE TYPE	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21
Infractions Traffic	233,611	188,901	137,610
Infractions Non-Traffic	92,215	75,653	23,458
Misdemeanor Traffic	12,207	9,475	8,350
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	26,814	21,485	15,487
Limited (without Unlawful Detainer)	25,835	22,058	23,558
Unlimited Civil	18,398	17,555	19,233
Felony	12,583	10,281	11,996
Small Claims	10,885	8,528	5,200
Unlawful Detainer	8,788	6,483	2,565
Family Law (Dissolution/Separation/Nullity)	12,045	9,862	10,982
Family Support	4,599	3,839	4,504
Domestic Violence	7,477	7,214	8,424
Juvenile Justice	1,410	1,372	833
Probate	3,071	2,726	3,177
Other Family Law	3,396	2,875	2,640
Juvenile Dependency	1,701	1,690	1,464
<b>Total</b>	<b>475,035</b>	<b>389,997</b>	<b>279,481</b>

- "Family Support" are filings where the Department of Child Support Services are a party to the case.

- "Domestic Violence" includes Domestic Violence Restraining Orders filed in Family Court.

- "Other Family Law" includes Paternity, Surrogacy, Child Support, Child Custody, and other miscellaneous Family Court petitions.



## Welcome

*The past two years have been full of challenges for our Court and the larger community as we continue to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court*

*continues to adhere to public health requirements regarding in-person access to services at the courthouses, and we have adapted to ensure continued access to justice for all.*

*The Court introduced several new online services in 2021, including an online option to submit small claims exhibits, the ability to make online requests for Family court documents, and "ChatBots" for Family, Traffic, and Probate matters, where visitors to the Court's website can easily find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions in those case types. Speaking of the Court's website, a brand new version was unveiled in summer 2021! The new website features an upgraded, more accessible design and is now mobile-friendly so you can check it out on your phone or tablet just as easily as visiting from a computer – click over to [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) to see the many court business needs that can now be taken care of online.*

*A bright spot in the past year was the 10th anniversary of the Veterans Treatment Court – one of our many successful collaborative courts that provides a specialized track of treatment rather than incarceration.*

*The San Diego Superior Court launched the Judicial Mentor Program to help potential judicial applicants understand the start-to-finish process for appointment to vacant seats, and to encourage the development of a well-qualified and diverse judicial applicant pool with a varied background of legal practice areas. Mentorship begins in 2022 for the first group of mentees.*

*In 2022, we will be focused on filling staff vacancies and further streamlining Court operations to bounce back from the various challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and previous years of budget cuts.*

*Enclosed you will find a summary of our budget, recent case filings, a list of self-help services available to the public, and details on the types of cases that can be filed at each of our seven locations. On behalf of our 135 judges, 19 commissioners, and more than 1,100 employees, welcome to the San Diego Superior Court.*

*Michael T. Smyth*

Hon. Michael T. Smyth

Presiding Judge (2022-2023)

## Self-Help Services

In certain circumstances, self-help services are available to litigants who go to court without an attorney. These programs offer assistance by providing procedural information and education to litigants preparing for court. In some cases, this assistance may involve completing forms or offering ways to settle the case without appearing in court. Services/clinics are operated within court facilities and are offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the telephone numbers listed for further information, or visit the court's Self-Help Center website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp).

**Child Support** - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office provides procedural and forms assistance with cases involving the Department of Child Support Services (governmental child support cases). For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, South and East County locations. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central (877) 534-2524 North (619) 235-5656  
South (877) 534-2524 East (877) 534-2524

**Conservatorship Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance. For information, call: (877) 534-2524

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic\*** - San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, North and East County locations. Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides this assistance at the South County location.

Central (619) 235-5656 North (619) 235-5656  
South (877) 534-2524 East (619) 235-5656

**Family Law Assistance** - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office provides procedural and forms assistance. For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

**Guardianship Clinic** - Guardianship Assistance Program provides orientation workshops and follow-up forms assistance. For information, call: (619) 844-2869

**Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. For information, call: (877) 534-2524

**Small Claims Legal Advisor** - San Diego Superior Court provides legal assistance to litigants on small claims procedures, forms, and processes. Services are provided remotely by phone, email, and live chat. Help is available in English and Spanish. For information, call:

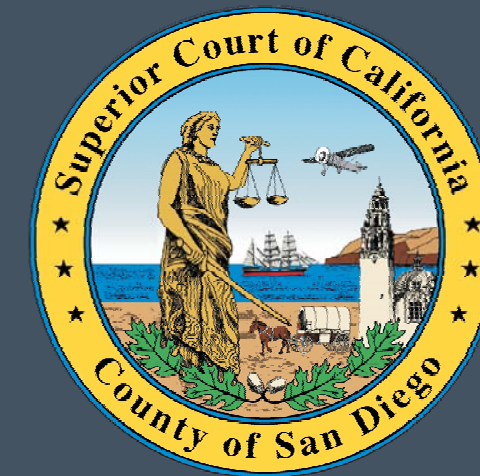
(858) 634-1777  
Recorded Info: (858) 634-1900

**Small Claims Mediation\*** - National Conflict Resolution Center provides mediated settlement assistance at the Central location. For information, call: (619) 238-2400

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central (877) 534-2524 North (619) 235-5656

\*These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.



**SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

## 2022 Resource Guide

### Mission Statement

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.

## COURT SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live
- Where the legal issue occurred
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile justice matters are heard only in the Central Division)

### CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 844-2700

**CENTRAL COURTHOUSE** (619) 844-2700  
1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Jury Services

Appeals – Limited and Unlimited Civil, Family, and Probate

Appeals – Felony, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Criminal – Felonies and Misdemeanors

Family Law – Dissolution (Divorce), Child Custody and Support, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law Facilitator

Family Support Division

Older Court Records - Records Research

Probate - Guardianships, Conservatorships, Estates, Trusts, and Delayed Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage

Court Reporting Services - Transcripts

**HALL OF JUSTICE** (619) 450-7275  
330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Civil - Limited and Unlimited

(Including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Restraining Orders)

Small Claims - (858) 634-1919

**KEARNY MESA FACILITY** (858) 634-1800  
8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Traffic and other Infractions and

Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

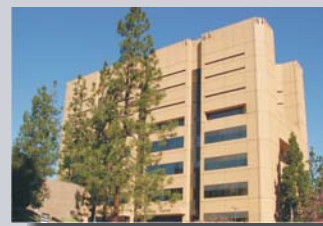
**JUVENILE COURT** (858) 634-1600  
2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

Adoptions and Emancipations

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Dependency

Minor Offenses - Including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



### EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 456-4100

East County Regional Center:  
250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



### NORTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (760) 201-8600

North County Regional Center:  
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Civil - Limited and Unlimited  
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency (*Including Adoptions*)  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions - (760) 201-8500



### SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 746-6200

South County Regional Center:  
500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

### JURY SERVICE INFORMATION

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

#### 24/7 Access

The court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service 24 hours a day, by calling 619-844-2800. A court staff member is available by phone from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Jurors may also access the court's website to get more information concerning jury service and to request an excuse or postpone jury service at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury).

#### One Day/One Trial

Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through Telephone Standby, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

#### Free Transportation for Jurors Serving at the Central Courthouse

The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service for those serving at the Central Courthouse or the Hall of Justice. See the jury summons for more information. This service is for jurors serving at the Central courts only.

#### Court Transfer

Prospective jurors can request a transfer of jury service to a more convenient Superior Court location within the county.

#### Wireless Internet Access

Free Wireless Internet Service is provided for jurors serving at each court location.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach and education are essential to the San Diego Superior Court. By establishing and maintaining strong ties to the community and promoting knowledge about how our system of justice works, the court is better able to fulfill its mission of administering justice in a way that is both accessible and understandable to the public.

#### Student Outreach and Education

Students in San Diego County have many unique opportunities to learn about the California justice system firsthand through activities that take place right in the courthouse. Tours and Judges in the Classroom programs are now offered virtually. For a complete list and description of programs offered, please visit the court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

#### Volunteers

Volunteering at the court is a great way to learn about the justice system and gain invaluable experience for individuals seeking a legal career, as well as those interested in serving their community. Volunteer opportunities include: information desks, business offices, and children's waiting rooms, just to name a few. Apply online at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

#### Speakers

Want to learn more about the court? Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to discuss how the court operates and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system.

For additional information, please call (619) 844-2322; or visit the court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

### SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE - [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)

The following services are available on the San Diego Superior Court website:

- Find out about self-help services for people without lawyers.
- Schedule a Traffic Business Office appointment.
- Find links to virtual hearings for various case types.
- Pay your traffic ticket, sign up for traffic school, request an extension, or create a payment plan.
- Pay court-ordered fines or fees.
- Look up your Jury Service information or request an extension.
- Search for a Civil Case Mediator.
- Reserve a Civil Motion date for Independent Calendar departments
- E-File documents in Family, Civil and Probate cases.
- Submit exhibits in Small Claims cases.
- Receive help from online ChatBots for Family, Probate and Traffic matters.
- Schedule an appointment for the Family Law Facilitators (FLF) workshops.
- Make online requests for Family Law case documents to be sent by mail.
- View court calendars by department.
- Look up information on court cases using our Court Index case search, Register of Actions, Civil & Probate Law and Motion pages, or New Case Filings.
- Purchase select court documents online through the Register of Actions.
- Find quick links to Child Support, DMV, Sheriff's Warrant, and Restraining Order indices.
- Find court locations and contact information.

If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most local libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library ([www.sdcpll.org](http://www.sdcpll.org)) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.