

Los Angeles Superior Court – Public Information Office

111 N. Hill Street, Room 107, Los Angeles, CA 90012

publicinfo@lacourt.org www.lacourt.org

NEWS



May 22, 2018

LASC RESTORES COURT OPERATIONS AT THE WHITTIER COURTHOUSE

On Monday, May 21, 2018, the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) began conducting business once again at the Whittier Courthouse, located at 7339 South Painter Ave. Part of LASC's Southeast District, it is the first courthouse in the county devoted solely to family law matters.

Court services at the Whittier location had been unavailable since 2013 due to severe budget cuts. The courthouse has recently undergone significant structural improvements including new energy-efficient lighting, two new chillers, a new roof, and exterior painting and landscaping, as well as numerous upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and security infrastructure.

A rededication ceremony was held on May 11. In attendance were State Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, L.A. County Supervisor for the Fourth District Janice Hahn, LASC Presiding Judge Daniel J. Buckley, Whittier city officials, judges, representatives from the Whittier Police and L.A. County Sheriff's departments, court staff, and other invited guests.

LASC Presiding Judge Daniel J. Buckley said, "The Court is so happy to be resuming business at the Whittier Courthouse. Not only will this facility have five courtrooms hearing family law-related cases, but it will also provide a range of services to litigants. In addition, we expect the courthouse to have a very positive impact on the local business community as it will bring hundreds of litigants and attorneys into the city each business day."

Family law matters include: dissolution (divorce), legal separation, and nullity (annulment) cases, as well as child custody, support and visitation matters. Requests for restraining orders will also be heard at this location.

"Today is a great day for the residents of the 57th Assembly District," stated State Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon. "I was proud to work with the Los Angeles Superior Court over the last several years to help restore the Whittier Courthouse. Our communities will finally have access to justice and much needed services dedicated to family law matters."

Sherri R. Carter, LASC's Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, said, "Based on previous statistics, we expect to file approximately 2,800 divorce and 2,500 domestic violence cases per year at the Whittier Courthouse. A staff of roughly 50 employees will allow us to be very responsive to the needs of people with family law cases."

more-more-more

LASC NEWS
Whittier Courthouse
May 22, 2018
Page 2 of 2

Five courtrooms at the Whittier Courthouse are now operating with an additional “long-cause” courtroom to be open soon. Long-cause divorce matters are more complex or contentious and require more trial time than other dissolution cases. A long-cause courtroom is able to dedicate consecutive, full days of trial to a single case, whereas other courtrooms may have 20 to 30 cases or more scheduled each day. Two courtrooms will hear restraining order matters.

A variety of family law support services are also now available in the Whittier facility, including:

- Self-Help Resource Center
- Family Law Facilitators
- Family Law Court Services
- Children's Waiting Room
- Domestic Violence Clinic

A clerk's office and Sheriff's office are also located in the building. The courthouse has public parking and is located in close proximity to public transportation.

LASC's Southeast District includes the Bellflower, Downey, Los Padrinos Juvenile, Norwalk, and Whittier Courthouses. Judicial officers and court staff were relocated from the Norwalk Courthouse to staff Whittier, which will handle all of the family law filings for the district, just as the Norwalk Courthouse did previously. With the move, the Norwalk Courthouse will be able to expand other areas of operation.

Throughout Los Angeles County, family law cases are also heard at the Central Civil West, Chatsworth, Compton, Governor George Deukmejian, Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Stanley Mosk, Torrance, and Van Nuys East Courthouses. The Whittier Courthouse will handle one-sixth of all family law cases filed outside of the Court's Central District.

More information regarding family law matters can be found on the Court's website at www.lacourt.org

###