

Los Angeles Superior Court – Public Information Office

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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITTIER COURTHOUSE TO RESTORE COURT OPERATIONS ON MAY 21, 2018

The Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) has announced the Whittier Courthouse will restore court operations on Monday, May 21, 2018. The Whittier Courthouse is located at 7339 South Painter Ave. Part of LASC's Southeast District, it will be the first courthouse in the county devoted solely to family law matters.

Court services at the Whittier location have 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.

Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Daniel J. Buckley, said, "The Court is so happy to be resuming business at this courthouse. Not only will this facility have five courtrooms hearing family law-related cases, but will also provide a range of services to litigants. In addition, we expect it to have a very positive impact on the local business community as the courthouse 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 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."

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Five courtrooms will be operating immediately 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 will be 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 will also be 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 will be 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 does currently. 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

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