



**The Superior Court**  
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN  
222 E. WEBER AVENUE, ROOM 303  
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## **SUPERIOR COURT FURTHER REDUCES STAFFING LEVELS AND SMALL CLAIMS SERVICES**

As a result of another year of budget cuts to the Judicial Branch passed by the state legislature and approved by the Governor, San Joaquin County Superior Court will be further reducing staffing levels despite its efforts to reduce expenses and increase revenues to help alleviate its projected budget deficit. This past June the court issued thirteen lay-off notices. The last day of work for affected employees is August 1, 2012. Since 2010, the court has seen its staff reduced by nearly 30%.

As a result of having fewer staff to process cases, effective September 1, 2012, the court is severely curtailing small claims services. The changes to small claims services are as follows:

- ❖ **For small claims cases filed on or before August 31, 2012:**
  - The court will continue to process these cases through the system, including appeals. Court dates already scheduled will remain on calendar.
  - The court will continue to process Abstracts of Judgment.
  - The court will continue to process Orders of Examination and Writs of Execution through August 31, 2012. After this date, the court will no longer process these documents.
  
- ❖ **For small claims cases filed after September 1, 2012:**
  - All cases filed after September 1, 2012 will be accepted by the Clerk's Office in Stockton (222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 303) with normal filing fees collected; however, cases will not receive a court date and will not be processed until such time the court has sufficient staff.
  
- ❖ **The court will no longer accept small claims e-filings effective August 1, 2012.**
  
- ❖ **Court users may consider contacting the Mediation Center of San Joaquin for assistance with resolving their disputes.** Interested individuals can call (209) 474-8794 for details about services provided.

The Court regrets that the changes above must take place and that the citizens of San Joaquin County do not have the same access to justice as citizens in other counties throughout California. We urge the public to contact their local legislators to ask them to fully fund the Judicial Branch.

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