



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF KINGS

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

Pursuant to Government Code § 68106 and Rule 10.620 of the
California Rules of Court

October 3, 2011

Effective December 27, 2011 through December 30, 2011, the Court will temporarily close all courtrooms and clerks' offices at the Avenal, Corcoran and Lemoore Courthouses.

During this temporary closure, any court proceedings required for cases pending in Avenal, Corcoran and Lemoore will be heard at the Hanford Courthouse, in the County Seat. The Hanford Civil, Criminal, Traffic and Traffic School clerks' offices will remain open. At least, two courtrooms in the Hanford Courthouse will remain in operation with judges assigned to those courtrooms, to handle time sensitive criminal and juvenile matters and other urgent matters that may come before the bench. Drop boxes are available outside the Avenal, Corcoran and Lemoore Courthouses, and will be checked daily by court staff to permit same-day filings pursuant to rule 2.210, during this time frame. (The court previously invited input from the public regarding this proposed closure and received no comments.)

The Superior Court Judges in Kings County have concluded that this temporary closure is necessary, and that urgent action is needed to institute the decision, because of the continuing state budget crisis. That crisis has caused significant permanent reductions to the state's funding for the judicial branch, with resulting cuts to this court's annual budget. The court has taken a number of prior steps to institute cost-savings, while preserving services to the public to the greatest extent possible. It has instituted a hiring freeze, eliminated positions, and negotiated contractual cost-savings. Given the new state budget recently enacted, and the resulting amount of the court's likely budget allocation this year, the court concludes it has no alternative but to act now to institute the action described in this notice, to achieve maximum efficiencies and to avoid further greater cost-cutting action in the future.

If you have any comments, please send them to Todd H. Barton, Court Executive Officer at 1426 South Drive Hanford, CA. 93230.