

# PRESS RELEASE



## *SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL*

El Centro, California – The Imperial County Superior Court developed a six phase plan to restore full services to the residents of Imperial County. Since March 15, 2021, the Court has implemented the first three phases of the plan which resulted in the opening of courtrooms for in-person appearances for the following departments: Civil, Probate, Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Delinquency, Family Law, Criminal Readiness, Mental Health, El Centro Traffic, and Small Claims. All counsel, witnesses, litigants, law enforcement, and probation officers are now appearing in person in these departments.

The Court will begin to implement Phase 4 as follows:

- Effective the week of April 26, 2021 – State Prison cases, including arraignments, will be heard in-person at 1:30 pm in Department 1 (Centinela on Tuesdays and Calipatria on Thursdays).
- Effective the week of May 3, 2021, Family Support cases will be heard in-person in Department 6.
- Effective May 10, 2021 – All El Centro Courthouse criminal calendars will be in-person.
- Effective June 1, 2021 – All Brawley and Winterhaven Courthouse calendars will be in person and the Clerk's Offices in those courthouses will reopen to the public.

No remote appearances will take place in criminal cases as of these dates with the exception of in-custody arraignments which will continue to be heard remotely in Brawley West.

All non-confidential criminal matters are currently available for the public to listen to at <https://imperial.courts.ca.gov/CourtCalendars>.

Finally, the Court will continue with its safety protocols to ensure that those who work at and enter the courthouse are as safe as they can be under the circumstances while ensuring every litigant access to justice. The safety protocols and the revised Master Plan for the Restoration of Services can be found on the Court's web site at <https://imperial.courts.ca.gov>.