

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: April 30, 2021

IN-PERSON MEDIATION SERVICES AVAILABLE WITH SAFETY PROTOCOLS STILL IN PLACE

SAN BERNARDINO, CA–San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) is pleased to announce that in a partnership with San Bernardino County, pursuant to the Dispute Resolution Program Act of 1986, Inland Valley Justice Center has begun providing in-person mediation services to litigants with Small Claims and Landlord Tenant cases at the Barstow, Joshua Tree and Fontana Courthouses. This service can be requested on your scheduled hearing date. This service is in an addition to our virtual mediation services already available through Inland Fair Housing Mediation Board.

Mediation services can be used to resolve disputes informally, and save time and money. During mediation, parties often times participate more actively in creating a workable solution. These solutions time and again can go beyond what the court can do.

COVID-19 safety protocols continue to be in place, such as social distancing and face masks (for details see <u>General Order</u>). All court users, including judicial officers, employees, attorneys, litigants, and the general public must wear a face covering at all times and maintain six feet of social distance between you and others while inside any court location. Security and Sheriff's personnel will turn away any person not following this order. SBSC continues to follow all <u>Centers for Disease Control and</u> <u>Prevention</u> (CDC) guidelines, and state and <u>local public health orders</u> to ensure the safety of all court users, judicial officers and employees while balancing access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic (See <u>Court's Statement</u>).

As a reminder, do not come into any court location if you have COVID-19, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, feeling ill, or have been asked to quarantine by a healthcare professional. All court users are encouraged to take the <u>self-screening assessment</u>, and view this <u>flyer</u> and <u>video</u> for safety protocols in place.

Members of the public are encouraged to frequently check SBSC's website (<u>www.sb-court.org</u>), social media accounts (<u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>), and designated COVID-19 page (<u>www.sb-court.org/covid-19</u>) for the latest services available to the public. For media inquiries, contact Julie Van Hook Communication and Public Affairs Officer, <u>courts-pio@sbcourt.org</u>.

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909-708-8747

Michael A. Sachs Presiding Judge

Nancy CS Eberhardt Court Executive Officer