

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(August 13, 2010)

**COURT REDUCES PUBLIC BUSINESS HOURS
IN CLERK'S OFFICES
ROOMS 113 AND C-10
CIVIC CENTER HALL OF JUSTICE**

Beginning September 1, 2010, the Court will shorten public business hours in the Clerk's Offices. In Room C-10, the Clerk's Office for criminal and minor offense/traffic case processing, the new public hours will be 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM daily. In Room 113, the Clerk's Office for civil, family law, probate, juvenile and small claims filing, the new public hours will be 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM daily. As required by California Rules of Court, a drop box will be located in Court Administration in Room 116 to collect documents and other court transactions between 3:00 and 4:00 each court business day. All deposits in the drop box up to and including 4:00 each day will be deemed to have been delivered or filed on that day. Staff in Court Administration will accept documents but will not be able to answer questions about cases, citations or other court business.

As a result of the severe, permanent cuts to the judicial branch budget, the Marin County Superior Court has decreased its staff by more than 20% since 2008. These workforce reductions necessitate the early closure of Clerk's Offices, to allow staff time to process filed documents in compliance with legal requirements as well as handling other transactions in a timely manner.

Court Executive Officer Kim Turner lamented the reduction in public business hours. She said, "Closing these offices early is contrary to our philosophy that the courts should be open to the people we serve, but we must take these measures to ensure that we have sufficient resources to process the cases before the court. We look forward to the day when critical funding is restored to the California judicial system so that we can resume our fundamental goal of increasing public access to the courts. We hope that this necessary reduction in public business hours is short-lived and that the Court will soon be in a position to return to full staffing and enhanced public service."

For additional information regarding this press release, contact
Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer at (415) 444-7020.