



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Redwood City, CA **DATE:** January 28, 2011

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Court Consolidates and Redirects Some Clerk's Office Functions at the Northern Branch

Due to the unprecedented and ongoing cuts to the state trial court budget, commencing January 31, 2011, the San Mateo County Superior Court will no longer accept or process family law, civil or probate court papers at its South San Francisco courthouse. The court has announced that its two person family law/ civil/probate clerk's office will be closed and all parties filing family law, civil and probate documents will be redirected to the Redwood City courthouse. The domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders will remain in the South San Francisco courthouse and be processed by the criminal division staff along with criminal court matters.

The court is committed to maintaining high levels of service and efficiency; this consolidation enables the court to better manage filings, balance workload, and shift staff into other divisions in need of additional support. No court staff will lose their jobs as a result of this change. It is important to note that all other functions of the Northern Branch will continue to operate as they have in the past.

Consolidating some of the services offered at the Northern Branch is just one of a number of initiatives that the court has implemented to address the statewide budget cuts over the past several years. According to former Presiding Judge Stephen M. Hall, "our court administration and judiciary have been planning for these budget challenges and have been implementing changes since 2007, when the budget situation began to worsen. In addition to reducing our staff by over twenty percent, we have raised fees where permissible under the law, increased internal efficiencies while improving services, and reduced spending in order to absorb these ongoing budget cuts."

Hearings normally scheduled for the Northern Branch will not be impacted and will continue to be heard at the South San Francisco location. As mentioned above, all remaining court divisions and functions at the Northern Branch will continue to be open and operational.

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