

# Santa Cruz Superior Court Self Help Center

## Helpful Internet Resources

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### Free internet access for legal research is available at:

**Santa Cruz County Law Library:** located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 70, Santa Cruz, CA, 831-420-2205, Open Monday-Friday 8 am to 12 pm Due to COVID restrictions, you may need an appointment. Please call. [www.lawlibrary.org](http://www.lawlibrary.org).

**Santa Cruz Public Libraries:** Contact for policies for use of computers. You must have a library card to use a library computer (or if you live out of the county there is a fee charged). To get more information about library locations and hours call 831-420-5730, [www.santacruzpl.org](http://www.santacruzpl.org).

**Watsonville City Public Library:** Contact for policies for use of computers. A library card may be required (or if you live out of the area a fee may be charged). To get more information call 831-768-3400 (Main library) or 831-768-3420 (Freedom branch) <https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/202/Library>

**Santa Cruz Superior Court Self Help Center:** located at 1 Second Street, Watsonville, CA has public computers available for legal research. There is a time limit and a print page limit while using these computers. Hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30-11:30 and 1-3. [www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org) or call 831-786-7200, push 4 to leave a message.

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### Where to Start:

**California Courts Self Help Center:** [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm)

**California Court Self Help Center in Spanish:** [www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)

**Self Help Legal Books:** Nolo Press publishes Self Help Legal Books. Nolo Press books can be accessed free on-line through the Santa Cruz County Law Library. You can access this free resource at [www.lawlibrary.org](http://www.lawlibrary.org).

**Nolo.com:** Offers general information on legal topics. [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)

**Findlaw:** [www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com) offers overviews of different legal subjects with links to state specific laws.

**Santa Cruz Superior Court:** [www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org) For information about our local court and its services.

**Appeals:** [www.selfhelp.appellate.courts.ca.gov](http://www.selfhelp.appellate.courts.ca.gov)

### Finding Help:

**Legal Aid referrals and self help resources:** [www.lawhelppca.org](http://www.lawhelppca.org)

**Attorneys:** California State Bar: [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov) or Santa Cruz County Bar: [lawyerreferralsantacruz.org](http://lawyerreferralsantacruz.org) Sites with attorney reviews (attorneys pay to advertise, but reviews are real) [www.avvo.com/](http://www.avvo.com/) and [martindale.com](http://martindale.com)

**Conflict Resolution Center (Mediation Santa Cruz County):** [www.crcsantacruz.org](http://www.crcsantacruz.org)

**Santa Cruz Law Library:** in person information, resources, and referrals [www.lawlibrary.org](http://www.lawlibrary.org)

**Sacramento Law Library:** online information about common legal topics and processes. [www.saclaw.org/](http://www.saclaw.org/)

**Community Information Database:** Santa Cruz Public Libraries database for community referrals: [www.santacruzpl.org/cid](http://www.santacruzpl.org/cid)

**Santa Cruz Superior Court Self-Help Center:** information about services [www.santacruzcourt.org/self-help](http://www.santacruzcourt.org/self-help)

**211 Community referrals:** Call or text 211, or go online for referrals to local community agencies <https://www.211santacruzcounty.org/>

**Santa Cruz Free Guide:** English and Spanish lists of shelters, meals, showers, bathrooms and resources <https://www.santacruzfreeguide.org/calendar/>

## Codes, Rules & Court Forms

California Rules of Court: [www.courts.ca.gov/rules/](http://www.courts.ca.gov/rules/)

Santa Cruz Local Rules of Court:

<http://www.santacruzcourt.org/forms-filing/local-rules>

California Codes (“The Law”) and Legislation:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>

Pending California Legislation:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

Court Forms: State Forms:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>

Local Forms: <http://www.santacruzcourt.org/forms-filing/local>

## County and State Sites:

- Santa Cruz County: [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us)
- California State Home Page: [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)
- Secretary of State: [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)
- Federal Courts: [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov)
- Department of Social Services: [www.dss.cahwnet.gov](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov)
- Department of Consumer Affairs: [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)
- California Department of Public Health: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)
- Franchise Tax Board: [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov)
- Internal Revenue Service’s: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- To find the owner of a business using a fictitious business name: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/business-programs/>
- To find the agent for service of process for a corporation or an LLC: <https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business>

## Subject Matter Specific Sites

### Families and Children:

- Guide to Separation and Divorce: [www.FamiliesChange.ca.gov](http://www.FamiliesChange.ca.gov) and for kids <https://www.familieschange.ca.gov/en/kids/changeville>
- Department of Child Support Services child support calculation:
  - Regular DCSS: <http://www.childsupport.ca.gov/>
  - Calculator <http://www.childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/>
- Our Family Wizard: <https://www.ourfamilywizard.com/> resource for communication, calendar sharing, and co-parenting.
- Kinship Care CA: <https://kinshipcareca.org/> Organization providing resources for caregivers and foster parents.

### Wildfire Victims

- 2020 Helping Handbook <https://media2.mofo.com/documents/2020-ca-wildfires-helping-handbook.pdf>
- CA Department of Insurance <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/WildfireResources.cfm>
- Nor Cal Wildfire Relief Resource Page <https://www.calfund.org/norcal-wildfire-relief/>

### Immigration:

- Judicial Council Immigration Resource Directory <http://www.courts.ca.gov/immigration.htm>
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)
- Immigration Legal Resource Center: [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org)
- National Immigration Law Center: [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)
- Santa Cruz County Immigration Project: <http://Cabinc.org/SCCIP/>
- Immigration Option: <https://www.immi.org/>
- Find an Immigration attorney: <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/>

## **Employment:**

- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)
- California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: [www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov)
- Legal Aid at Work: <https://legalaidatwork.org/>

## **Veterans and Military Families:**

- Stateside Legal: [www.statesidelegal.org](http://www.statesidelegal.org)
- The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono program: <http://www.vetsprobono.org>

## **Seniors:**

- Seniors Council: [www.seniorscouncil.org](http://www.seniorscouncil.org)
- Senior Citizens Legal Services: <http://seniorlegal.org>
- Senior Network Services: <http://www.seniornetworkservices.org>

## **Record Clearance:**

- California Judicial Council Statewide Information: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/1070.htm>
- Santa Cruz Public Defender's Clean Slate <http://www.scddefenders.com/cleanslate-1/>
- Prop 47 Statewide Information: <http://www.myprop47.org>
- How to request a copy of your own State Record: <https://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/security>

## **Housing**

- Tenant, Homeowner, and Small Landlord Relief & Stabilization Act of 2020 <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/>

- National Housing Law Project (NHLP) <https://www.nhlp.org/>
- Tenant Sanctuary Santa Cruz County <https://tenantsanctuary.org/>

## **Consumer**

- Bay Area Legal Aid: San Jose Clinic: <https://baylegal.org/>
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/>
- Negotiating with Creditors – Tips <https://www.preventloanscams.org/negotiate-creditors/>
- Fair Trade Commission Consumer Information <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>

## **Disability**

- Disability Rights California <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/>

## **LGBTQ**

- National Center for Lesbian Rights <https://www.nclrights.org/>
- National Center for Transgender Equality <https://transequality.org/>
- Lambda Legal <https://www.lambdalegal.org/your-rights>

## **Research Issues:**

- **Finding public records:** [www.searchsystems.net](http://www.searchsystems.net)  
– site that compiles different resources, some free and some pay, to find public records.
- **Car values:** [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com)
- **Workplace salary information:** [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)  
provides estimated salary information based on location and profession.
- **State Licenses:**
  - **Contractor's license** – [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)
  - **Realtor's license** – [www.dre.ca.gov](http://www.dre.ca.gov)
  - **Insurance agent's license** – [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov)
- **Inmate locator** –
  - **Federal** [www.bop.gov/inmateloc](http://www.bop.gov/inmateloc)
  - **State** <https://inmatelocator.cdcr.ca.gov/search.aspx>

### **Video, Tutorials and Online Classes:**

*(note these are published by other courts, some local rules and procedures may differ from court to court):*

- **Sacramento County Law Library:** <https://saclaw.org/law-101/self-help-videos/> Videos on different aspects of civil lawsuits including; starting, serving paperwork, discovery, and preparing for trial. Videos on specific topics such as Civil Harassment Restraining Orders, Conservatorship, Guardianship, and Name Change.
- **California Judicial Council** videos available in languages other than English. Subjects covered are Small Claims, Evictions, Civil Harassment, & Debt Collection:
  - [www.courts.ca.gov/20614.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/20614.htm), [www.youtube.com/calcourtsselfhelp](http://www.youtube.com/calcourtsselfhelp)
- **LA County Law Library:** <https://www.lalawlibrary.org/onlineclasses-2020>
- **Small Claims Demand Letter:** <http://www.courts.ca.gov/11145.htm>
- **Bankruptcy Basics:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?reload=9&list=PL57A4168A81D34179>
- **Fundamentos del Proceso de Quiebra** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB9F9806C3A318157>
- **Filing out common Judicial Council Forms:** <http://cc-courthelp.org/videoroom.aspx> PowerPoint presentations that go over how to fill out common forms. Some available in other languages
- **Domestic Violence and Anger Management Classes** – <https://streets2schools.com/>