Santa Cruz Superior Court Self Help Center
Helpful Internet Resources

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 – Thursday 8:00 – 11:45 and 1:00 – 3:30. Friday 8:00 – 12:00. Time limits apply 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 outside the county there is a fee charged). To get more information about library locations and hours call 831-420-5730, 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 are time and print page limits while using these computers. Hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30-11:30am and 1-3pm. https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/self-help, call 831-786-7200, option 4 to leave a message.

Where to Start:

California Courts Self Help Center: www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm

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 at www.lawlibrary.org in the Self Help section under "Find Online Legal Information."

Nolo.com: Offers general information on legal topics. www.nolo.com

Findlaw: www.findlaw.com offers overviews of different legal subjects with links to state specific laws.

Santa Cruz Superior Court: www.santacruzcourt.org For information about our local court and its services.

Appeals: https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/divisions/appellate-division & https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/appeals

Finding Help:

Legal Aid referrals & self-help resources: www.lawhelpca.org

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

Conflict Resolution Center (Mediation Santa Cruz County): www.crcsantacruz.org

Santa Cruz Law Library: in-person information, resources, and referrals www.lawlibrary.org

Sacramento Law Library: online information about common legal topics and processes. www.saclaw.org/

Community Information Database: Santa Cruz Public Libraries database for community referrals: www.santacruzpl.org/cid

Santa Cruz Superior Court Self-Help Center: for information about services, see 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://peoplefirstscc.org/freeguides

Codes, Rules & Court Forms

California Rules of Court: 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
- California State Home Page: www.ca.gov
- Secretary of State: www.sos.ca.gov
- Federal Courts: www.uscourts.gov
- Department of Social Services:
- https://www.cdss.ca.gov/
- Department of Consumer Affairs: www.dca.ca.gov
- California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/
- Franchise Tax Board: www.ftb.ca.gov
- Internal Revenue Service's: www.irs.gov
- To find the owner of a business using a fictitious business name (Santa Cruz County): https://www2.santacruzcountyca.gov/clerkrecorder/Asp/FBNInquiry.asp
- To find information, including the agent for service of process, for a corporation, limited partnership or LLC: https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business

Subject Matter Specific Sites

Families and Children:

- Guide to Separation and Divorce: www.FamiliesChange.ca.gov and, for kids: https://familieschange.ca.gov/en/kids
- Department of Child Support Services: assistance with getting, changing or enforcing child support.
  - http://www.childsupport.ca.gov/
  - Child Support Calculator: http://www.childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/
- Our Family Wizard: coparenting communication and calendar sharing resource: https://www.ourfamilywizard.com/
- Kinship Care CA: https://kinshipcareca.org/ Organization providing resources for caregivers and foster parents.

Disaster Relief:

- Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative: https://disasterlegalservicesca.org/
- Nor Cal Wildfire Relief Resource Page https://www.calfund.org/norcal-wildfire-relief/
- Disaster Relief Handbooks https://www.mofo.com/culture/pro-bono/helping-handbooks#wildfires
- CA Department of Insurance https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/index.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 & Immigration Services: www.uscis.gov
- Immigration Legal Resource Center: www.ilrc.org
- National Immigration Law Center: www.nilc.org
- Santa Cruz County Immigration Project: http://Cabinc.org/SCCIP/
- Immigration Options: https://www.immi.org/
- Find an Immigration attorney: https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/

Employment:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: www.eeoc.gov
- California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: www.dfeh.ca.gov
- Legal Aid at Work: https://legalaidatwork.org/

Veterans and Military Families:

- Stateside Legal: www.statesidelegal.org
- The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono program: http://www.vetsprobono.org

Seniors:

- Seniors Council: www.seniorscouncil.org
- Senior Legal Services: http://seniorlegal.org
- Senior Network Services: http://www.seniornetworkservices.org

Record Clearance:

- California Judicial Council Statewide Information: https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/clean-your-record
- Santa Cruz Public Defender's Clean Slate https://santacruzdefenders.us/Clients/RecordClearance.aspx
- 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

- California Civil Rights Department Husing Discrimination Information: https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/housing/
- National Housing Law Project (NHLP) https://www.nhlp.org/
- Tenant Sanctuary Santa Cruz County https://tenantsanctuary.org/
- Cal Home Law – nonprofit organization for Homeowners Association Law https://calhomelaw.org or info@calhomelaw.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 – site that complies different resources, some free and some pay, to find public records.
- **Car values:** www.kbb.com
- **Workplace salary information:** www.salary.com provides estimated salary information based on location and profession.
- **State Licenses:**
  - **Contractor's license** – www.cslb.ca.gov
  - **Realtor's license –** www.dre.ca.gov
  - **Insurance agent's license –** www.insurance.ca.gov
- **Inmate locator –**
  - **Federal** www.bop.gov/inmateloc
  - **State** https://ciris.mt.cdcr.ca.gov/search

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:
    - https://courts.ca.gov/programs-initiatives/alternative-dispute-resolution-adr/resolve-your-case-video-series, www.youtube.com/calcourtsselfhelp

- **LA County Law Library**: https://www.lalawlibrary.org/onlineclasses

- **Small Claims Demand Letter**: https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/form/demand-letter

- **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/