

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. Time limits apply. See website for current hours. 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: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov>

Self Help Legal Books: Nolo Press publishes Self Help Legal Books. Nolo Press books can be accessed free online 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: <https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/>
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 <https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/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://peoplefirstsec.org/freeguides>

Codes, Rules & Court Forms

California Rules of Court:

<https://courts.ca.gov/forms-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:

<https://courts.ca.gov/forms-rules/court-forms>

Local Forms:

<https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/forms-filing/local-forms>

County and State Sites:

- Santa Cruz County: <https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/>
- 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/FBNIquiry.asp>
- To find information, including the agent for service of process, for a corporation, limited partnership or LLC: <https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/>

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: <https://childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/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.
- BestInterest: coparenting communication platform <https://bestinterest.app>

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>

Immigration:

- Judicial Council Immigration Resource Directory <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/immigration>
- 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 Civil Rights Department: <https://calcivilrights.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 Housing 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
- Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) <https://www.heraca.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/>
- Santa Clara School of Law Consumer Law information <https://law.scu.edu/centers/kgac/c/our-clients-and-services/consumer-law/>

Disability

- Disability Rights California <https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.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 compiles 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:
 - 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/>