

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-Friday 8 am to 12 pm Due to COVID restrictions, you may need an appointment. Please call. 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.

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 or call 831-786-7200, push 4 to leave a message.

Where to Start:

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

California Court Self Help Center in Spanish: 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.

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: www.selfhelp.appellate.courts.ca.gov

Finding Help:

Legal Aid referrals and self help resources: www.lawhelppca.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: information about services 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/

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: www.dss.cahwnet.gov
- Department of Consumer Affairs: www.dca.ca.gov
- California Department of Public Health: 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: <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 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.childsup.ca.gov/resources/calculatorchildsupport.aspx>
- 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
- Immigration Legal Resource Center: www.ilrc.org
- National Immigration Law Center: 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
- 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 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
– 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://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, www.youtube.com/calcourtselfhelp
- **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/>