



**The Superior Court**  
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## **NEW COURTHOUSE IN DOWNTOWN STOCKTON**

Stockton- Superior Court of San Joaquin County is pleased to announce that it will hold its first session of court on Monday, July 21, 2008 in the new downtown Stockton Courthouse annex located at 540 East Main Street (the old downtown location for J.C. Penny). Three judicial officers, support staff, Family Court Services department, Records department, Pro Per Clinic, and satellite Department of Child Support Services office will begin moving from the main downtown Stockton Courthouse to the new courthouse on Monday, July 14, 2008.

The move into the 540 E. Main Street Courthouse has been a much anticipated event as the Superior Court has outgrown the existing downtown courthouse, and this move will accommodate the three new judgeship positions authorized by the Legislature last year in Senate Bill 56. Because of a shortage of courtrooms in the main Stockton courthouse, the court had been conducting regular night court sessions five days per week. The regular night court sessions will end on July 18, 2008, but the court will continue to hold one night court session per month in the main Stockton courthouse for small claims cases.

The new annex at 540 East Main has three courtrooms on the first floor. There are plans for five additional courtrooms and a jury assembly room on the second floor to accommodate five of the six additional judgeships the court is scheduled to receive in the upcoming years until construction of the new downtown courthouse is completed in 2013. This temporary move will provide support staff with more working space, private conference rooms for attorneys to meet with their clients, and an easily accessible Pro Per Clinic and self-help center for the public.

The courthouse will feature artwork created by local students. The addition of the "family" themed artwork will give the courthouse an inviting feel. The new courthouse is also equipped with a state of the art security system with surveillance equipment, alarms, and secured, private hallways for judicial officers and court staff to get to and from courtrooms.

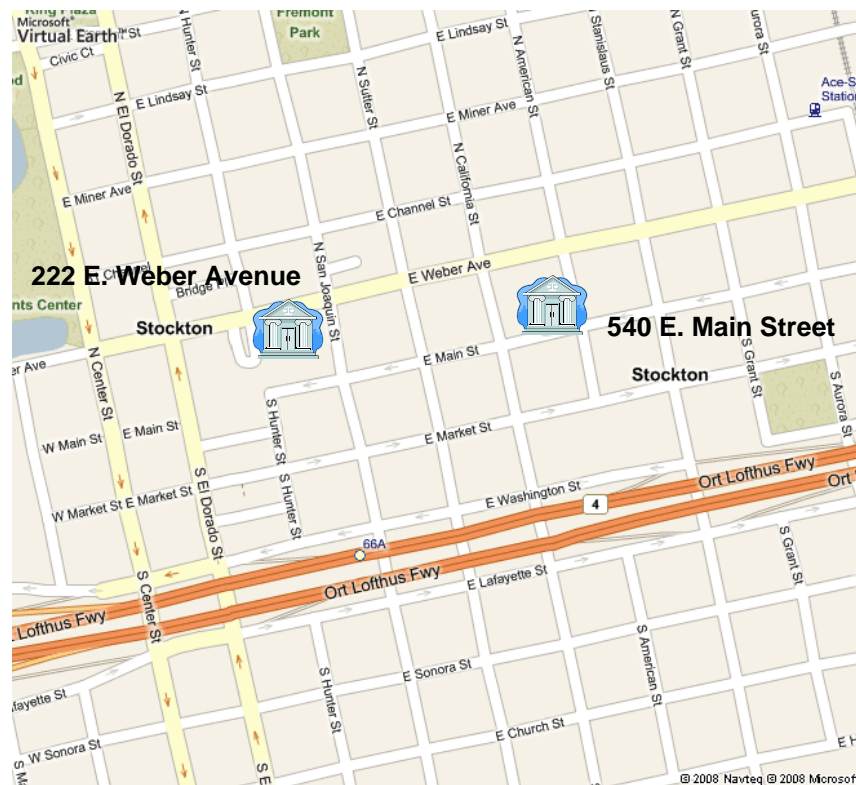
Starting Monday, July 21, 2008, the following case types will be heard at the new courthouse: divorces, child custody and visitation, child support, domestic violence restraining orders, elder abuse, guardianships, and adoptions. The courthouse will also be

home to the Pro Per Clinic, which provides assistance to self-represented litigants. Additionally, family law mediation orientations and guardianship orientations will be held at the new location.

All files for the case types listed above will be transferred from the existing downtown courthouse to the Records Department at the new location on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Between Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, court customers who need to request a file should come to Room 303 of the main downtown courthouse. Please keep in mind that there will be a 24-hour waiting period. You will be required to come back to Room 303 the following day to view your file. Starting Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, court customers will make records requests at the 540 E. Main Street courthouse and can view their files the same day.

Court customers will also be able to view other court files at the new courthouse. Court records were previously stored in three separate locations. With the additional space in the new courthouse, all court records can be stored in one location. This consolidation will not only save the expense of storing thousands of records, but also make records more accessible to the public. To find out where your court file is located, please go to the court's website at <http://www.stocktoncourt.org/> to view a directory for all court records.

The 540 E. Main Street courthouse project is a public-private partnership between the Superior Court, California Administrative Office of the Courts, and Cort Companies.



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