

WHAT IS HOMELESS COURT?

The Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin proudly held its first session of Homeless Court in January of 2006.

The Homeless Court was developed with the goal of assisting the homeless of San Joaquin County clear up:

- minor traffic and morals offenses
- bench warrants and failures to appear

without the threat of incarceration and fines. Individuals serve their sentences with volunteer work (community service at Stockton Shelter for the Homeless, St. Mary's Dining Room, or the Emergency Food Bank) and participation in programs (AA, Mental Health, etc.) as set up by their shelter case workers.

There is a make-shift courtroom on site at St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services in Stockton, which is a safe and familiar environment for this population; however, in light of the pandemic limiting in-person contacts, Homeless Court is being held remotely, using the Court's conference call line. Homeless court is held the last Friday of the month from 3:00-5:00 pm. Individuals can sign-up for Homeless Court at:

- Any Homeless Shelter in San Joaquin County
- Veteran's Administration or
- Women's Center



WHY IS HOMELESS COURT NEEDED?

Homeless Court is needed for several reasons:

1. This population is not making it to their court appearances.
2. This specialty court allows these individuals to clear their minor offenses, failures to appear, and warrants. This in turn permits these court users to become more employable, and possibly qualify for public assistance.
3. They do not have to "hide" from the law anymore.
4. These individuals have other more pressing issues in their lives (supporting their children, trying to stay safe, getting food, etc.) which take priority over clearing up their court matters.
5. Homeless individuals often do not have transportation and cannot get to court.

6. The court can clear up the backlog of cases that belong to this population.

HOW DOES HOMELESS COURT WORK?

1. Homeless Shelters sign up clients (noting their names, dates of birth, and if an interpreter is needed).
2. The information is forwarded to the court which runs all cases, bench warrants, etc. and prepares the court calendar.
3. The District Attorney and volunteer defense attorneys plea-bargain the clients' cases prior to court.
4. Shelter case workers and Homeless agencies prepare information for court regarding each individual's progress and his/her case plan.
5. Cases are typically resolved with one appearance, with credit being given for community service and time spent in programs in lieu of jail and fines.



HOMELESS COURT COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

San Joaquin County Superior Court

Shalom Rosenfelder or Amanda Harty, Court Manager
Allison Little, Court Clerk
180 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA
(209) 992-5267

San Joaquin County District Attorney

Mary Aguirre, Deputy District Attorney
222 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA
(209) 468-2400

San Joaquin County Bar Association

Provides volunteer attorneys on site.

Stockton Shelter for the Homeless

JoLyn McMillan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 4803
Stockton, CA 95204
(209)465-3612

St. Mary's Dining Room

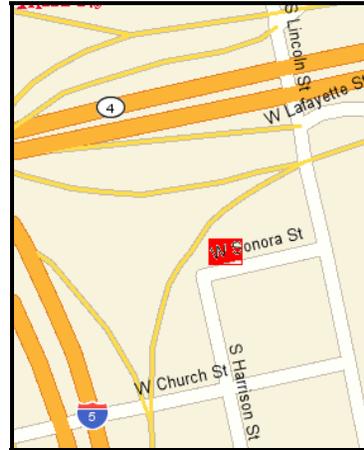
Edward Figueroa, Executive Director
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209)467-0703
Contact: Mercedes Moreno

Veterans Administration

Virginia Wimmer, Veterans Service Officer
105 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95201
(209)468-2917

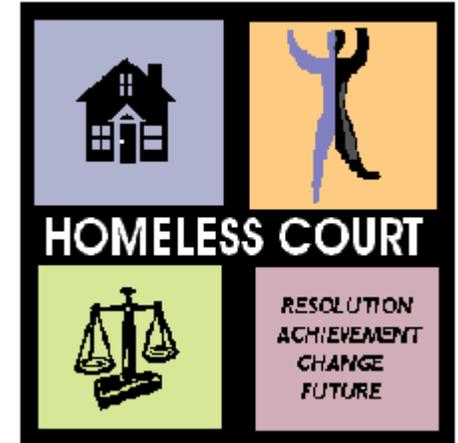
2022 HOMELESS COURT SCHEDULE

3:00-5:00 p.m. @
St. Mary's Dining Room
545 W. Sonora St., Stockton, CA 95203



January 28, 2022
February 25, 2022
March 25, 2022
April 29, 2022
May 27, 2022
June 24, 2022
July 29, 2022
August 26, 2022
September 30, 2022
October 28, 2022
November 18, 2022
December 16, 2022

SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN JOAQUIN



COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS

*Homeless Court is held at
St. Mary's Dining Room
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203*

*Main Courthouse
180 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202*