



**Dear Friends:**

**I am attorney Sean Musgrove. This is a COVID-19 update.**

**The COVID-19 Crisis has created a lot of uncertainty in our world. It is not time for us to panic.**

**In California, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20. This has effectively put all of us on a mandatory stay at home orders unless you are essential for infrastructure.**

**My office is monitoring the actual impact on the Family Law Courts and Civil Courts. I want to inform you that the Courts are remaining open.**

**My office is also remaining open during this crisis. Staff will be working from home and/or coming into the office on a limited basis.**

**As of right now, the Courts are open for emergency issues only. However, it appears that each county is managing the crisis differently. It is my understanding that the Courts have either closed their self-help centers or drastically reduced access.**

**If you are curious or concerned, you can go to your County's court website for more information. The Courts are doing an excellent job in posting COVID-19 Updates.**

**It appears from my office's review that the Courts, as of right now, will be accepting non-emergency filings. This is not confirmed. We believe the Courts will not give dates for hearings until later.**

**The Courts will be accepting filings for emergency relief.**

**If you are a victim of domestic violence, civil harassment, or elder abuse, the Courts will be open for you to provide emergency relief. The Courts will also be open for other legal emergencies.**

**I would like to educate you about what a legal emergency 'normally' is. The legal standard for emergency relief is that you will suffer irreparable harm if the Court does not intervene in your case.**

If you think you are facing irreparable harm, you may file for emergency relief. You will need to explain to the Court why you have an emergency as well as why you are likely to succeed on the merits of your legal issues when the evidence is presented at trial.

If you have a non-emergency dispute in the areas of child custody, financial support, and property disputes, we believe that the Family Law Courts will also be open for you to file a motion, although the hearing date may be far off.

Disputes in the areas of child custody, financial support, and property disputes may rise to the level of an emergency in certain narrow situations. If so, you can apply to the Court for emergency relief.

I would warn you, that lack of convenience does not constitute an emergency in the Court's eyes. If everyone files for emergency orders, the Court will be clogged, and access will be denied to those who need it.

It is always best to resolve your issues out of Court by coming to a written agreement. In today's world, more than ever, it is imperative that we all have cooler heads and to cooperate with each other whenever possible. This includes coming to settlements outside of the Court system. I would advise you to come to written stipulations that can be filed with the Court and become a court order.

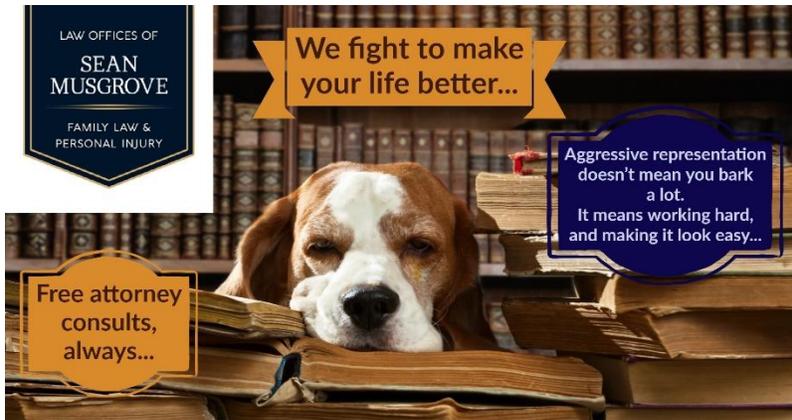
If you think you have an emergency, please consult an attorney. I have been in constant contact with other attorneys who are my competitors in both the marketplace and the courtroom. All of us, as officers of the court, are remaining open to serve the public by providing access to justice.

My office will be providing free consultations to both current clients and to the general public for people who feel they are in need of emergency help and/or general advice. Please call my office if you need help. We will fight to try to make your life better.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Musgrove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sean Musgrove



## Happy to help.

Please call 916-965-4577 if you have any questions. We are happy to serve you.