



# Santa Rita Jail

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACCESS

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# Video Court

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Court Services and Detentions and Corrections have been working together to facilitate video court at SRJ for the Superior Court of Alameda County
- Court Services assigned deputies respond to SRJ to assist with assist with escorting and staging of defendants for video court
- Video court primarily includes arraignments which occur daily but also include bail motions, extradition hearings, probation hearings, etc.
- Defendants are seen via a video system maintained by Superior Court





# Video Court

- The daily number of county video court hearings varies from 120-200 cases on the court calendars
- Defendants may have multiple cases heard at one time
- SRJ hears cases from both North and South County Courthouses
- The average number of defendants seen are about 60-70
- Video Court can be held in at least 9 locations throughout the jail, which are mostly located in the visiting booths of our intake quarantine housing units.





# Video Court

- Deputies utilize daily a mobile video unit which is brought to the housing unit when a defendant is on quarantine
- The mobile unit is primarily used for the intake housing units
- Required Court Services staffing at SRJ:
  - 10-12 Deputies
- Court Services staff not physically at SRJ, but working remotely from their courthouse:
  - 2-4 Sheriff's Technician for scheduling
  - 2-4 Sergeants
  - 1-2 Lieutenant





# Public Defender Requests

The Inmate Services Unit will receive weekly (two to four times a week) requests from the Public Defenders Office to have defendants sign various documents to include plea forms, release of information forms, a waiver of extradition forms.

These forms are sent to us to facilitate due to COVID and the quarantine status of the defendant. We have assisted with these requests when the Public Defender's express there is an immediate need to do so.

Upon receipt at SRJ, the forms are immediately taken to the defendant. After the form is signed, they are scanned and emailed back to the Public Defender. The total process takes about an hour.





# Attorney Visits

- Primarily facilitated by SRJ's Visiting Unit, but also Inmate Services
- Contact, non-contact, and video visits are allowed
- Defendants can contact attorneys using hard-wired phones during "pod time" (recreation time outside of cell) or on their GTL tablets





# Attorney Visits

- Every week the Visiting Unit handles about 97 non-contact attorney visits and about 4 contact attorney visits
- The daily average of attorney visits = 14-15
- The weekly average number of video interviews = 65
- The daily average number of video interviews = 9





# Attorney Visits

- Attorney visits are held in contact and non-contact visiting booths in most of the 18 housing units
- If the housing unit doesn't have a visiting booth, the defendant is escorted to the visiting booths in Intake, Transfer and Release
- Defendants with mobility issues may be taken to the Outpatient Housing Unit







# Public Health/COVID restrictions

- ACSO follows the COVID-19 & Influenza Outbreak Control Plan approved by Public Health and on our website
- Contact visitors need a negative COVID result within 72 hours of scheduled visit
- When we experience a high number of COVID positives, affecting multiple housing units, contact visits as well as in-person public visiting are suspended





# Public Health/COVID restrictions

- Defendants who have been exposed are still allowed non-contact visits, phone, and tablet access
- Visiting booths are disinfected between visits
- Attorneys are welcome at SRJ for non-contact visits even if defendants are on quarantine (unless they are COVID positive)
- Emergency Bail Schedule (EBS) is still in effect





# Other Constraints

- Per federal court order, defendants are locked down in their cells and the lights are turned off from 11:00PM to 5:00AM, Monday-Friday, on court days to ensure ample rest and quiet time
- On weekends and holidays, lights are turned off from 11:00PM to 6:00AM





# Questions

