

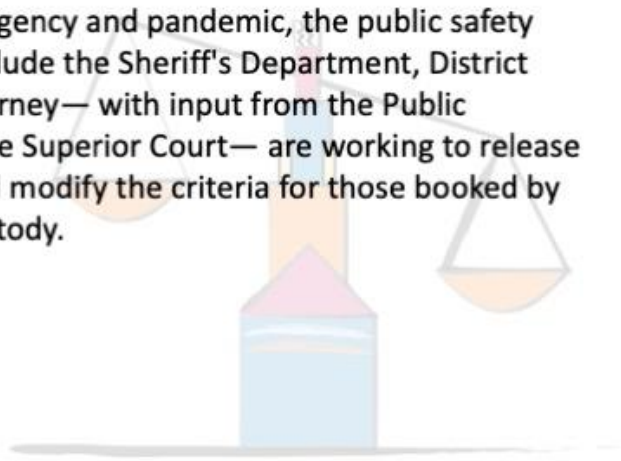
DA Takes Action Working with Sheriff to Release Some Inmates Awaiting Court Hearings from Custody, Reduce Vulnerable Jail Population

In the wake of an unprecedented Superior Court closure, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and San Diego County Sheriff's Department took several proactive steps to address the threat of the coronavirus to individuals being held in local jails, including putting policies in place that promote the release of individuals arrested for low-level, non-violent crimes who normally would have been released if the court was open or can't afford to post bail.

Normally, a person must be brought before a judge for arraignment within 48 hours of being arrested, not counting weekends or holidays. Given the current court closure, people unable to afford bail could potentially be in custody for a much longer time. In response, cases involving people in custody are continuing to be reviewed within statutory timelines. If no charges are going to be filed, the jail is quickly notified by the District Attorney so they can release the person (if that individual has nothing else keeping them in custody). If charges *are* going to be filed, the District Attorney is working with the Sheriff and the Court on an "electronic pre-arraignment review" to identify individuals whose charges are eligible for immediate release or bail reduction.

During this time of national emergency and pandemic, the public safety partners of the County, which include the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, and San Diego City Attorney— with input from the Public Defender and permission from the Superior Court— are working to release certain inmates from custody and modify the criteria for those booked by the Sheriff's Department into custody.

District Attorney Report



Information current as of 3.26.2020. Subject to Change. Check for Updates.