



Superior Courts of California

NOTICE OF FEE CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2012

As a result of the enactment of several pieces of legislation, the jurisdiction of the small claims court has been increased, with specified exceptions; the maximum total fees collected from all plaintiffs in complex civil cases has been reduced; and the relevant code sections for petitions and responses related to the prevention of elder abuse, dependent abuse, civil harassment, and workplace violence have been modified. Additional information regarding these changes is provided below.

Per Senate Bill 221 (Stats. 2011, ch. 64):

- Code of Civil Procedure 116.221 specifies that the jurisdiction of the small claims court includes various actions in which the demand does not exceed \$7,500, with specified exceptions. As per the bill, the jurisdiction of the small claims court will be increasing that amount to \$10,000, except as specified.

In addition, per Senate Bill 384 (Stats. 2011, ch. 419):

- Government Code 70616 requires a \$550 fee to be paid by each plaintiff in a complex civil case with a maximum of \$10,000 total fees collected from all plaintiffs. As per the bill, only the payment of a single complex case fee on behalf of all plaintiffs will be required.

Lastly, Assembly Bill 454 (Stats. 2011, ch. 101) updated the subsections related to: petitions to prevent abuse of an elder or dependent adult and responses; petitions to prevent civil harassment (involving violence, threats of violence, or stalking) and responses; and petitions to prevent workplace violence (involving violence, threats of violence, or stalking) and responses.

A revised statewide civil fee schedule will be posted to the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/fee-schedule-010112.pdf> and will also be available at the clerk's office. A schedule of the criminal and traffic fees, assessments and penalties can also be obtained at the clerk's office.