



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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## PRESS RELEASE

February 25, 2019

### **MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES THE EXPANSION OF SELF-HELP SERVICES IN GREENFIELD**

Monterey County Superior Court is pleased to announce the expansion of Self-Help Services in South Monterey County. The new Self-Help Center currently operates in Greenfield on the fourth Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Beginning March 12, 2019 the Court will operate on an additional day – the second Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The South County Self-Help Center is located in the Greenfield City Council Chambers at the Greenfield Civic Center. The public is encouraged to make an appointment to ensure service and can do so by visiting the court's website: <https://processing.monterey.courts.ca.gov/SelfHelp/Default.aspx>.

The Self-Help Center provides information and assistance to individuals who do not have a lawyer and explains options without giving legal advice or representing any party. The expansion of Self-Help Services to Greenfield has provided greater access to South Monterey County residents who are acting as self-represented litigants and are in need of assistance. Services are available in family law, child support, custody and visitation, small claims, unlawful detainer (landlord/tenant) as well as to answer general questions in both English and Spanish languages. Services provided at the Greenfield Self-Help Center mirror those provided in both Monterey and Salinas, where legal and support staff effectively guide self-represented litigants with document preparation and review. Group clinics and workshops will likely be arranged in the future based on the needs of the community.

The response to services on the fourth Friday of the month has been robust, with a fully booked calendar. Presiding Judge Lydia M. Villarreal stated, "We are grateful for the cooperation of the City of Greenfield. Because of the City's dedication to serving the south county population, we are able to provide these services". The Court will continue to explore new services that can be provided in South County and with an increased budget from the state legislature, there are funds to hire additional staff.

Self-Help Services continue to be offered in the Monterey Courthouse on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and in the Salinas Courthouse on Mondays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for the fourth Friday of the month when staff is in Greenfield.

For more information on Self-Help Services or to set up an appointment, visit the court's website: <http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/SelfHelp/>.

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