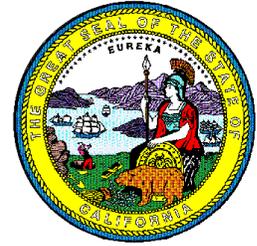




Superior Court of California County of Fresno



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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What: Fresno County Superior Court Holds Homeless Court Session

When: Friday, May 20th at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Poverello House, 412 "F" Street

On Friday, May, 20, 2011, the Fresno County Superior Court will hold Homeless Court. This special court session first held on June 7, 2002 convenes 3-4 times a year and provides a benefit by improving access to justice for the homeless population, who typically will not appear for court in a traditional courthouse setting. By addressing their outstanding criminal cases, clients remove barriers to employment and governmental services. It also clears cases and saves jail costs by imposing community service or giving credit for time served in alcohol and drug treatment programs in lieu of incarceration or fines defendants are not able to pay. Most sentences are served as community service for agencies that also help the homeless and less fortunate.

In order to participate, clients have typically completed or are in alcohol and drug treatment programs and/or job training with non-profit agencies. They have to be clean and sober for at least 60 days. Common cases involve traffic matters, public intoxication, petty theft, trespass, drinking in public, urinating in public and panhandling.

Participants are referred to Homeless Court by agencies such as the Poverello House, Fresno Rescue Mission, West Care, Spirit of Women, Salvation Army and Paths and Maroa Home.

The Homeless Court is a joint venture with the Superior Court, offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender and Sheriff and members of the treatment programs.

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