

Hi. This is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli, and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Today we tackle, briefly, the topic of adjournment in the California Legislature.

When the California Legislature adjourned its 2020 session in the early morning hours of September 1st, many observers mistakenly called it adjournment *sine die*. However, there is a distinction between adjournment and adjournment *sine die*.

If you consult with the Legislative Counsel's Glossary of Terms, you note that adjournment means, "terminating a meeting or the occurrence at the close of a legislative day upon the completion of the house's business." Adjournment is accomplished by a successful motion to end the committee hearing or the floor session. And of course, they specify the hour and date of the next meeting. This is generally announced prior to adjourning for the day.

In order for the Assembly and Senate to properly adjourn, a motion to adjourn must be made. It's not debatable, and it may not be amended as a motion. An adjournment motion is generally in order except when another member is speaking on the floor, when voting is taking place, or during a call.

Pursuant to Assembly Rule 84, the details of the adjournment motion are actually entered in the Assembly Daily Journal. In both houses, a motion to adjourn requires a majority vote. In addition, under Assembly Rule 85, a motion to recess to a time certain is treated the same as a motion to adjourn, except that motion to recess is debatable and it can be amended regarding its time and duration.

Adjournment is distinguished from adjournment *sine die*. It's a Latin term that basically means, literally, to adjourn without days. And so, when we consult the Legislative Counsel's Glossary of Terms, we find that the phrase means that there are basically no more days left after they adjourn. It's a term used to describe the final termination of the two-year legislative session. For example, adjournment *sine die* does not occur when they adjourn the first year, in the odd year, of the two-year legislative session.

In fact, if you consult Article IV, Section 3(a) of the California Constitution, you find adjournment *sine die* set forth. What Section 3(a) of Article IV says is that "each session of the Legislature shall adjourn *sine die* by operation of the Constitution at midnight on November 30 of the following even-numbered year." Note that both regular and special sessions of the Legislature adjourn *sine die* at midnight on November 30 of each even-numbered year.

When the California Legislature terminated its session, both the Assembly the Senate adjourned until they will reconvene on Monday, December 7th, at twelve noon, according to the Constitution. On the other hand, the 2019-2020 legislative session adjourns *sine die* on November 30, 2020.

That's a brief look at adjournment and adjournment *sine die* in the California State Legislature.