

II. Family Court

A) Domestic Relations Dockets (Motion Hour)

- 1) Due to the ongoing restrictions of in-person proceedings, traditional in-person motion hours in Family Court will not be held. However, parties may resume filing motions and responses for the Court's review and issuance of temporary orders or will be set for hearing as necessary.
- 2) Beginning June 1, 2020, unless a hearing is specifically requested in writing by either party, all Motions shall be ruled upon on the submission of the pleadings. Motions (and Responses) shall be filed according to State and Local Rule, and "Noticed for Review by the Court" on the date of the regularly scheduled motion docket. The Court will review the pleadings on the date of the motion docket and issue a ruling thereon, or schedule a remote hearing as requested or as necessary.
- 3) All motions shall include a statement certifying that the filing party and/or attorney has made good faith efforts to resolve all non-emergency matters prior to filing, as well as a current phone number and email address for scheduling telephonic or video hearing if necessary.

B) Domestic and Dating Violence Dockets

- 1) All Domestic and Dating Violence proceedings shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings, although exceptions shall be allowed for any persons who requests to participate remotely in advance of the hearing, or as otherwise excepted by the Supreme Court's Orders. Persons wishing to participate remotely shall contact the clerk's office and provide contact information for remote participation.
- 2) Domestic Violence and Interpersonal Protection petitions, and any Motions to amend any or extend any terms of an Order will continue to be heard on the regularly scheduled domestic violence docket in each County. Matters requiring a hearing expected to exceed 30 minutes may be scheduled for a separate hearing date if necessary.

- 3) Only parties, attorneys, and necessary witnesses are to attend. Victims' Advocates may also continue to attend Domestic Violence/IPO proceedings at their discretion.

C) Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse Matters

- 1) Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse dockets shall resume as of June 1, 2020, but must be conducted using telephonic or video technology pursuant to the Supreme Court Order entered May 15, 2020. All attorneys and social workers shall participate remotely using Skype or telephonically. Skype invitations will be sent out by the Court prior to each docket day for participation. Attorneys shall utilize best efforts to contact litigants prior to Court and ensure that they are available to participate by phone call initiated by her or her attorney at the time their case is called. If necessary, case workers shall utilize their best efforts to contact foster parents or temporary custodians prior to Court and ensure that they are available to participate by phone call initiated by her or her attorney at the time their case is called. If a litigant is unable to participate remotely, or has not been appointed counsel, he or she shall be allowed in-person access to the Court when the case is called.
- 2) Case workers shall provide copies of any written reports or reviews to all attorneys involved in a matter at least 7 days prior to the hearing or review in order to provide attorneys with additional time to review same with his or her clients.
- 3) The 72-hour Temporary Removal Hearing following the entry of an Emergency Custody Order, contested Adjudication Hearings, and any contested Permanency/Goal Change hearings shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings, although exceptions shall be allowed for any persons who requests to participate remotely in advance of the hearing, or as otherwise excepted by the Supreme Court's Orders. All other proceedings shall be held using telephonic or video technology, unless in-person proceedings are specifically requested in writing and determined necessary by the Court.

D) Child Support Enforcement Dockets

- 1) Child Support Enforcement matters are being docketed and/or reviewed at the discretion of the Child Support Enforcement office and as determined by the Court in each county within this district. Please contact your child support worker or the County Attorney's office in your county for further information.
- 2) Contested contempt hearings and revocation hearings shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings. All other matters requiring a hearing shall be heard remotely using telephonic or video technology.

E) Status Dockets

- 1) All initial Arraignments, contested Adjudication Hearings, and any Contempt matters in Status cases shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings. Unless otherwise determined by the Court, all other reviews or hearings on the Status docket shall be conducted remotely.

F) Trials or other Evidentiary Hearings

- 1) All Family Court matters scheduled for trial or evidentiary hearing shall be heard remotely using telephonic or video technology, except for the following, which shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings:
 - a. Termination of Parental Rights Hearings;
 - b. Contested Adoptions where a biological parent has not entered his or her consent and whose whereabouts are known and who has sought to appear in or defend against the action;
 - c. Domestic and Dating Violence proceedings;
 - d. In Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse cases: the 72-hour Temporary Removal Hearing following the entry of an Emergency Custody Order, contested Adjudication Hearings, and any contested Permanency/Goal Change hearings shall be considered necessary in-person proceedings,
 - e. Contested Adjudication Hearings, and any Contempt matters in Status cases; and
 - f. Any other matter deemed necessary for an in-person proceedings by the Court.

- 2) Exceptions shall be allowed for any persons who requests to participate remotely in advance of the hearing, or as otherwise excepted by the Supreme Court's Orders. Persons wishing to participate remotely shall contact the Family Court office and provide contact information for remote participation.