



Family Bench Essential Hearings

Family Bench Presiding Judge: Hon. Greg Sakall, Division 23

The following hearings may be conducted, and will presumptively be conducted telephonically or by Microsoft Teams unless the Court orders otherwise:

Tier 1:

- Ex Parte Orders of Protection and Injunction Against Harassment hearings.
- Hearings regarding Child Support Warrants if the person is in custody
- Contested Order of Protection Hearings
- Rule 48(d) hearings (conducted by the assigned judge)
- Expedited process request to enforce parenting time or legal decision-making

Tier 2:

- Rule 47 and Rule 47.2 motions for parenting time, legal decision-making, and support
- Motions for temporary orders for exclusive use of marital home
- Petitions and motions relating to school choice for a minor child
- Child support hearings (establishment, modification and enforcement), IV-D and non-IV-D
- Defaults

Tier 3:

- Resolution Management Conferences
- Settlement Conferences
- Modification of parenting plans not covered above (Duration: 2 hours or less)
- Trials (Duration: 3 hours or less)
- Enforcement of prior orders and judgments, non-parenting time and legal decision-making
- Any other matter as the Court may deem appropriate or necessary.

Priority will be given to Tier 1 hearings. Tier 1 and 2 hearings may be conducted in-person for good cause shown. Any request for an in-person hearing must be made not less than two court days in advance of the hearing, and not at the time of hearing. Tier 3 hearings and trials may not be conducted in person, and if in-person attendance is necessary, then the matter shall be continued.

The Court will continue to expect that any hearings scheduled while Administrative Order 2020-38 is in effect will be necessary and productive. Counsel shall determine in advance of any court appearance whether the matter meets those criteria and notify the Court accordingly. Trial divisions will continue to coordinate calendars through the bench presiding judge.

Unless there is a current order prohibiting contact between the parties or a history of domestic violence between self-represented parties, parties, and counsel, if any, must engage in a good faith attempt to resolve any issues before the hearing. This good faith consultation requires a meeting either in person, by conference call, or by other remote means, and does not include merely a letter or email. For any party or counsel that fails to comply with this good faith consultation requirement, the court may enter sanctions consistent with Rule 76.2.

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