

Guidance regarding scheduling Family Law Motions starting June 1

We hope this communication finds you and your family in good health.

As we announced in prior communications, starting June 1, FJC will begin hearing family law motion calendars (both attorney and self-represented, as well as non-parental custody and state family law). In order to protect public health and support compliance with public health directives, most of our calendars will be set up to rely on participation by video or phone. For information on what calendars are being heard by zoom or by phone please click [here](#) to see the calendar posted on our website. Zoom and Bridge telephone instructions will also be posted on our “Coming to FJC” page which can be found [here](#).

As to specific family law motions, the court has opened new sessions (starting the week of June 1 through August 31, 2020) for the following hearing types: family law motions (attorneys), family law motions (SRPs), non-parental custody motions, state family law, and judge’s motions, relocations, and revision calendars.

The new sessions are more time specific and have lower caps than we have used historically. This is to account for slower-paced calendars (which occurs when using technology) and to ensure physical distancing if some participants appear in person.

Some of our new sessions are scheduled at the same time our old sessions were scheduled, others are scheduled at different times. In order to ensure your motion will be heard on a specific date, the court requests that lawyers re-note any motions that were scheduled in the “old” sessions to a new session. Please click [here](#) to see the sessions report to view available calendars.

As we advised in prior communications, for motions cancelled by the court between March 23 and May 29, the court has re-set motions that were previously set by court order or that were set by self-represented parties. The court previously requested that lawyers re-note their motions. We are hopeful that we will be able to address the backlog of cancelled motions during the June 1-July 10, 2020 period. To support this goal, we ask that you not schedule what we consider low-priority motions during this time. This includes motions to enforce, motions for contempt, motions to set aside defaults, and discovery motions. Thank you for honoring this request. (Agreed motions on these topics may be scheduled on the family law agreed orders calendar.)

As advised earlier, for all family law motions, the judicial officer may decide certain motions on pleadings. Please comply with our local rules and ensure all material needed for a court decision is included in the motion, response, reply briefs, and supporting materials timely filed and served. The moving party should also file a proposed order. Parties will be advised the day before the scheduled hearing if the judicial officer will decide the motion without a hearing.

The probate & guardianship ex parte motions, family law and state family law agreed orders calendars (no hearing) should continue to be used for all types of family law agreed motions/agreed orders.

We appreciate your patience during this next phase and we thank you in advance for supporting us by participating in hearings through remote means (video and phone).

*Judge Wilson
Chief Judge
Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court*