



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
WWW.SACCOURT.CA.GOV

Public Notice

Resumption of Family Law Trials and Settlement Conferences

Beginning on May 22, 2020, family law trials and settlement conferences scheduled March 20, 2020 through July 3, 2020 will be continued. Trials will be held in the courthouse and settlement conferences will be held using Zoom teleconference.

Resuming Trials

Trials will resume the week of July 6, 2020. To address the backlog, the Family Court darkened all Law and Motion calendars to create a dedicated week of trials starting on July 6, 2020 through July 10, 2020. Beginning the week of July 13, 2020, trials will be held each week on Thursday and Friday. All trials will be held at 8:30 am, to be assigned out of the Supervising Judge's department. Further instructions will be provided as we move closer to hearing trials.

Trials will be held in person. Only parties, attorneys and support people for domestic violence cases will be permitted in the courthouse. Witnesses will wait outside the courthouse until summoned to testify.

Parties and attorneys will be contacted by telephone, provided available dates for scheduling, and will be given a timeframe to respond with proposed dates based on availability.

Parties and attorneys will be provided notice of continued trial and settlement conference dates through the Public Case Access System. If parties or attorneys are not linked to their case in the Public Case Access System, they will be sent notice of the continuance by US Mail.

Parties are encouraged to stipulate to continue by faxing to the court the local form [Facsimile Request to Drop or Continue Hearing, Long Cause Hearing or Trial by Stipulation](#). Priority will be given to custody and domestic violence proceedings and based on the date received by the court. If the proposed dates provided are not available, parties and attorneys will be contacted by telephone, provided available dates for scheduling, and given a timeframe to respond with proposed dates. Available dates for trials and settlement conferences will be posted to the court's web under the [Public Notice](#) section.

Settlement Conferences

Settlement conferences will resume the weeks of June 22 and June 29, 2020, Monday through Thursday, for the dedicated trial week scheduled beginning July 6, 2020 through July 10, 2020. For trials scheduled beginning the week of July 13, 2020, settlement conferences will be scheduled Tuesday through Thursday, beginning the week of July 6, 2020.

Zoom Settlement Conferences

Settlement conferences will be Zoom telepresence proceedings. There will be no public physical access to the courtroom. In order to participate in your Zoom settlement conference, you must either use a computer or smart device with internet access, and have downloaded the Zoom Application. If you do not have compatible technology, then you can attend the settlement conference using a telephone and calling a designated toll free Zoom telephone line.

You must appear by Zoom or Telephone using the designated department account referenced in your notification at least 5 minutes before your scheduled settlement conference date and time; and wait for a court representative to take roll. The court will provide Zoom account/ID information to you with your notification of rescheduled trial. For further Zoom Instructions, please click the link to the court's webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/docs/zoom-court-hearing-instructions-042320.pdf>.

Settlement conferences will be held by going to <https://saccourt.zoom.us/my/dept128a> or by telephone by calling (888) 475-4499 and entering Conference ID: # 962-728-1431.

Parties, attorneys and support people must join 5 minutes before the scheduled settlement conference date and time; follow the voice prompts, and put their phone on MUTE until a court representative takes roll and assigns your calendar number. Once roll is taken, the court will call each case individually by calendar number. Only the parties and attorneys on the respective call should UN-MUTE their phone. All other attendees should remain in MUTE mode.

Parties are advised and should understand that the court, in its discretion, may decide to terminate the Zoom appearance if it determines during the settlement conference that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceedings, or because either party is not available, or based on delay due to disruption, noise, misconduct, a communication problem, a technical problem, or other issue. The court may decide at any time to require a personal appearance and continue the settlement conference. The parties may be asked to provide information to verify their identity during the settlement conference. The parties should understand that if they need to present documents, testimony or other evidence that is not available at the time of the settlement conference, it is their responsibility to request a continuance. The court may decide to grant or deny the request.

Due to the uncertainty of continued efforts to stem the COVID-19 epidemic, settlement conferences may be subject to change, and may change from Zoom to in-person appearances. Please continue to frequently check the Family and Children section of the Sacramento Superior Court Webpage at <https://www.saccourt.ca.gov/family/family-law.aspx> for any new information and advisements.

Filing of Statement of Issues

Parties and attorneys are required to file an original and two copies of a statement of issues 20 days before their settlement conference date pursuant to local rule 5.29, unless otherwise ordered by the court. Filings may be submitted through US Mail or the drop box at the the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Stipulations

Parties and attorneys with agreements/[stipulations](#) may submit them for consideration by the court by email at dept128@saccourt.ca.gov at least three business days before the settlement conference. If a stipulation is reached at the settlement conference, the court will issue a minute order directing one of the parties to prepare and submit it by email for consideration, and the trial will be vacated.

Subpoenaing Mediators

To subpoena the Child Custody Recommending Counselor (mediator) in the court's Office of Family Court Services the subpoena along with a check or credit card authorization form for the amount of \$275.00 should be served at the courthouse. It is recommended that you check the availability of a mediator for a trial before serving the subpoena by emailing the Office of Family Court Services at FCS@saccourt.ca.gov.