



**COVID-19 UPDATES -
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY LAW**

May 20, 2020

- Q: If I appear in person for a mandatory settlement conference (MSC) may I also appear in person for trial confirming conference (TCC)?**
- A: Yes.
- Q: If I am granted the ability to appear via remote video for my MSC how do I appear for my TCC?**
- A: You will appear telephonically for your TCC. You will receive two emails, one for the video appearance and one for the telephonic appearance. After you appear for your MSC, you will disconnect your remote video appearance and connect to your remote telephonic appearance.
- Q: If I have a TCC scheduled at 8:30 and my MSC (originally scheduled for 8:30) has been moved to 9:30 or 10:30 do I have to show up for my TCC at 8:30?**
- A: No. You will always attend the MSC first and then attend the TCC after you have completed your MSC. The judicial officer will know the time of your scheduled MSC and also know you are in Department 43 trying to settle your matter until you arrive for you TCC in Department 32.
- Q: How do I find out information about how to make a telephonic appearance?**
- A: See the Placer County Superior Court website at this link: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS-family-appearance.shtml>
- Q: When I have a court hearing and make a telephonic or remote appearance how do I let the Judicial Officer know that the case I am appearing on has an agreed upon continuance, a settlement or an agreement? I would like to do this so that the Judicial Officer knows that the parties have an agreement and can call the case early in the calendar before the longer cause matters.**
- A: Use the link at: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/division-family-hearing-status.shtml>.
- Q: How do either I or the other party submit a written stipulation to the court when one or more parties are making a telephonic or remote appearance?**
- A: You may use the eDelivery function on the court's website and then let the Judicial Officer know at the time of the hearing that the written stipulation was submitted to eDelivery.



- Q: I have an upcoming hearing where the emergency rules require that I make a telephonic appearance, however, I want to appear in person, how do I do that?**
- A: See the Placer County Superior Court website at this link: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS-family-appearance.shtml>.
- Q: My trial was originally scheduled between the State of Emergency dates and I have an upcoming trial assignment date. Are there any programs to assist those parties whose trials were continued?**
- A: The court is working with the Placer County Bar Association's Placer Family Law Executive Committee to develop a volunteer settlement conference program. This would be an optional settlement conference conducted by a volunteer attorney. It would be in addition to a mandatory settlement conference. The judicial officer at trial assignment will inquire of the parties whether they would like to participate in a volunteer settlement conference in addition to the mandatory settlement conference. If the parties agree, then a voluntary settlement conference will be scheduled at the time of the continued trial assignment.
- Q: I have an upcoming trial assignment date and I want to reach an agreement as the future trial or evidentiary hearing dates with the other party in my case so I do not have to come to court, how do I do that?**
- A: If you have an upcoming Trial Assignment court hearing on a Friday morning you may agree to trial dates posted on the court's website and drop the trial assignment hearing. The court continues to use form PL-FL009 to stipulate to trial or evidentiary hearing dates. (Local Rule 30.14.) Parties must complete and submit Local Form PL-FL009 to stipulate (agree) to the dates posted on the courts website.
- Q: I do not want to wait to file a request for order for child custody, instead, the other party and I agree to attend confidential mediation, may we attend without filing an R.F.O.?**
- A: Yes. You may use local form number PL-FCS007, Petition for Confidential Child Custody Mediation and you may submit that form to Family Court services.
- Q: I have a Mandatory Settlement Conference where I must appear in person, do I have to appear in person?**
- A: Yes. However, the court is making every effort to decrease the amount of people in the courtroom at one time. The cases currently scheduled at 8:30 a.m. will be re-scheduled for 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30. Each party/attorney will receive a telephone call from the Family Law Clerk's Office to let you know what time your M.S.C. will be. If you do not receive a call, you should arrive in time for your 8:30 M.S.C. as the M.S.C. will remain scheduled for 8:30 a.m. If you do want to appear telephonically for you M.S.C. you may submit a request to appear



telephonically, per the normal request process and a judicial officer will make a determination after receipt of the request.

Q: How is the court accepting filings in family law matters?

A: The court is accepting all filings in family law cases. eDelivery is mandated for use by attorneys and represented parties for most civil filings. eDelivery is optional for self-represented parties. Information on eDelivery, including documents that cannot be submitted via this method is available at: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/online-edelivery-access.shtml>). Documents that cannot be submitted by eDelivery or for self-represented parties who do not wish to use eDelivery, filings may be mailed to the court, or placed in the drop boxes at the Howard G. Gibson Courthouse (Roseville) and Tahoe City Courthouse.

If further assistance is needed for a self-represented party, that party may access the self-help center by a telephonic appearance or remote appearance. Please see the self-help section of the court's website (<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/self-help-info.shtml>).

Q: How or when are pending family matters to be reset if they were set for hearing while emergency orders are in effect?

A: The court's emergency orders have expired. The court has resumed all family law hearings, with the exception of non-domestic violence long cause evidentiary hearings and trials. For information on how long-cause hearings were reset, please see the court's standing orders regarding family law posted on the court's COVID-19 webpage at: <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-covid-19.shtml>.

The court anticipates resuming all long cause evidentiary hearings and trials the week of June 1, although the large criminal trial backlog is likely to impact courtroom availability.

Telephone or video appearances is mandated in most proceedings. Please see the court's Emergency Local Rules (<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/general-local-rules.shtml>) or the court's remote appearances website for details (<http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml>).

Q: When are responsive briefs due for motions initially set for hearing while emergency orders are in effect?

A: Responsive deadlines will track the continued hearing date.

Q: How should parties present urgent discovery motions or other requests for emergency relief?

A: Requests for emergency relief or requests for orders shortening time may be set on the family ex parte calendar, which are heard at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Parties who wish to appear on the morning calendars must file their request by 10:00



a.m. the business day prior. All requests must otherwise comply with California Rules of Court, rules 3.1200 *et seq.*

Q: How does the court’s continuance of family law trials due to emergency orders affect dates or deadlines which are tied to the trial date, such as the scheduled mandatory settlement conferences or the filing of the Statement of Issues and Contentions, Income and Expense Declarations and Witness Lists?

A: Trial-related deadlines affected by emergency orders, including the mandatory settlement conference and trial confirming conferences, will be continued in conjunction with the continued trial date. This does not include trial-related deadlines which expired prior to March 16, 2020, by operation of statute or other order of the court.