



# MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT: FAMILY DEPARTMENT

## Modified Family Department Operation during COVID-19 Pandemic

The Family Department of the Court continues to put forth best efforts to meet the needs of the community we serve while also being mindful of issues and recommendations relating to the COVID-19 concerns.

Effective March 20, 2020, the following summarizes the present policies and procedures of the Family Department:

- 1** All court proceedings scheduled before a judicial officer shall proceed as directed by the assigned judicial officer. When possible, in-court proceedings are being replaced with telephonic proceedings
- 2** Early Resolution Conferences set by Family Court Administration shall be conducted telephonically. If an agreement is reached, the agreed upon documents shall be forwarded to the parties via e-mail, when possible. The parties shall be given the opportunity to review the written agreements and a conference call shall be set the same day, when possible, before a judicial officer, who shall enter the agreement on the record in accordance with Rule 69, ARFLP. If no agreement or only a partial agreement is reached, the remaining issues shall be referred to the assigned judicial officer and set for a telephonic status conference before that judicial officer.
- 3** Any single-issue petitions (presently covered under Administrative Order 2007-022, Specialty Court proceedings) shall result in the issuance of an Order to Telephonically Appear for a specific date and time before a conference officer. The conference between the parties and the conference officer shall be conducted telephonically. If agreements are reached, the matter shall be transferred to the assigned or on-call judicial officer so that the terms may be entered on the record in accordance with Rule 69, ARFLP. If only partial or no agreement is reached, the matter shall be set for a continued telephonic status conference before the conference officer until such time that in-person hearing dates become available.
- 4** For any stipulated orders and Rule 44 agreements, the parties may submit the packet of documents at the designated location(s), and they shall be reviewed when practical.
- 5** Decree of Demand (DOD) proceedings are suspended through at least April 13, 2020. After April 13, 2020, the court may implement DOD by Telephone, if practical, which shall then continue until in-person proceedings can resume. Further notice shall be provided.
- 6** Domestic violence protective proceedings and emergency relief petitions shall continue to be processed under the existing procedures through Family Court Administration.
- 7** All IV-D matters shall be heard telephonically when practical.



**8** Accountability and Enforcement Court proceedings are postponed at this time.

**9** Child interviews:

- a.** For court-ordered child interviews through Conciliation Services, no new interviews will be set or conducted except in emergency circumstances determined by the court.
- b.** For existing appointments for a child interview through Conciliation Services, the interviews shall be conducted, as scheduled, unless circumstances exist to either cancel the interview or for it to be conducted other than in person.

**10** Requirements to complete the Parent Information Program may be completed on-line. There are no in-person programs offered at this time.

**11** Parental Conflict Resolution classes are postponed at this time. Existing orders to participate and any new requests shall be held until further order of the court.

**12** Parenting Conferences, open negotiation (pre and post decree) mediation (pre and post decree) and all other conciliation services, when practical, shall be conducted telephonically. These proceedings shall not be conducted in person until further order of the court.

Family Department administration can be reached at (602)506-1561

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