



**Superior Court of California
County of Sonoma
Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Local Rules
Eff. 07/01/2026**

~~abcde~~ Deleted text

abcde New/Revised text

abcde Unchanged text

Proposed Amendments to Local Rules

Rule 6

Rule 9

PLEASE NOTE: If a rule or a subsection to a rule does not appear in this document, it remains unchanged from the 01/01/2026 edition.

RULE 6 RULES APPLICABLE TO PROBATE, CONSERVATORSHIPS AND GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

6.2 CALENDAR AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The current Probate, Conservatorship (including Limited Conservatorships), and Guardianship calendars are posted on the court's website. (Click on the link to "Current Probate Calendars" on the probate page).

A. General Guidelines

1. General Probate Matters

The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court shall designate the departments to hear general probate matters. General probate matters will be calendared and heard at such times and places as shall be designated by the Presiding Judge.

2. Probate Calendar Day on Judicial Holiday

When the date for the Regular Probate Calendar is a court holiday the calendar will be heard on a date and time as designated by the Supervising Judge of the Probate Division.

3. Probate Examiner Notes

Probate examiner notes addressing compliance with or deficiencies in procedural matters are posted in many individual case types prior to the hearings. Parties may access probate examiner notes through the case portal on the Court's website.

(Rev. 1/1/2022, 1/1/2024, 7/1/2024)

B. Calendaring Guidelines

Calendaring information on the Regular Probate, Guardianship and Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) calendars may be found on the court's website, at <http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/online-services/calendars/probate>.

1. Regular Probate Calendar Matters

Except as otherwise indicated in these rules, all probate petitions concerning the following are to be calendared for hearing on the Regular Probate Calendar:

- a. Decedent's estates,

- b. Trusts,
- c. Conservatorships of the person and of the estate (other than LPS conservatorships unless there is an estate involved.)
- d. Guardianships of the estate. Petitions for appointment of a guardian of the estate only, and all petitions concerning the administration of an existing guardianship of the estate, are to be calendared for hearing on the Regular Guardianship Calendar.
- e. Special Needs Trusts. All petitions for an order approving a Special Needs Trust or for an order directing payment or delivery of any property or funds to a Special Needs Trust, pursuant to Probate Code §§3602,3611, or other authority, shall be scheduled for hearing on the Regular Probate Calendar. When such a petition is a first-filed paper or arises out of a civil matter not pending before the Probate Court, the petition shall be filed with the Probate Clerk as a new case and given a new case number.

2. Case Management Calendar

- a. Matters are set on this calendar by the Court only and are generally uncontested or for status only.
- b. Case management statements are not required to be filed; however, any written updates may be filed as a statement of issues at least five (5) Court days before the hearing.

3. Petitions for Guardianship of the Person and Estate

Petitions for the appointment of the guardian of the person and estate are to be calendared for hearing on the Guardianship Calendar.

4. LPS Calendar

All matters involving proceedings under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act are to be calendared on the LPS Calendar.

(Rev. 7/1/2023, 1/1/2024)

C. Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures

All petitions and supporting documents in matters to be heard on the probate calendar shall be filed with the Probate Clerk.

1. Procedure for Obtaining a Hearing Date

In all matters, petitioners will be assigned a hearing date from the probate clerk at the time of filing.

2. Procedure for Obtaining a continuance (This rule does not apply to Trial Dates)

- a. Stipulated Continuance Form: Stipulated continuances for any matter set on the regular Probate calendar will generally be granted a maximum of two (2) times per pending petition or application for relief and for not more than a total of six (6) months' time from the date the matter was first set for hearing. To request one of the two stipulated continuances, a NOTICE OF STIPULATED CONTINUANCE (PROBATE) (Sonoma County Local Form PR-018) executed by all parties or their attorneys and the continuance fee must be submitted to the probate clerk no later than noon (12:00 p.m.) three (3) court days prior to the hearing date. Electronic signatures are acceptable. The probate clerk will continue the hearing to the date selected by the parties if available based on calendar availability. If the selected date is not available, the probate clerk will continue the matter to the next available probate calendar based on calendar availability.
- b. Continuance Requested at Hearing: Requests for continuances may be made at the hearing and may be granted in the discretion of the Court.
- c. ~~Limitation on Continuances: Normally no more than three continuances will be allowed before the matter is dismissed without prejudice.~~ Limitations on Continuances: Generally, no more than two continuances will be permitted before the matter is dismissed without prejudice.

D. Submission of Proposed Orders and Other Pleadings Before Hearing Date

~~1. Orders~~

~~a. Electronic Filings for Orders After Hearing~~

~~Subject to any applicable exemptions orders after hearing shall be lodged with the court electronically in PDF format attached to Judicial Council Form EFS-020. At the same time as the EFS-020 and the PDF proposed order are lodged with the court electronically, a version of the proposed order in a fully editable word processing format (preferably in MS Word format, and not~~

~~PDF or PDF converted to a word format) shall be emailed directly to the department using the following email format: EFileProposedOrderDept#@sonomacourt.org—replace the # sign with the Department’s number. Please note the case number in the subject line of your email.~~

b. ~~All Other Proposed Orders~~

Proposed orders shall be submitted to the Probate Clerk’s Office at the time of filing the petition. If a self-addressed, pre-paid envelope is included or paid for at the time the order is submitted with appropriate photocopy charges, the clerk will return a file endorsed copy by mail. ~~Attorneys with boxes in the Courthouse should pay the appropriate photocopy charge and note their box number in the upper righthand corner of the proposed Order and in the comments section when eFiling to cause the clerk to deliver a copy to the box.~~

2. Supporting Papers

Supporting papers shall be filed at the time of filing the Petition, except as otherwise provided in the Probate Code or these Local Rules.

3. Proofs of Service

Proofs of Service for the initial petition shall be filed with the Clerk at least five (5) days prior to the day of hearing. Any other Proofs of Service shall be filed with the Clerk contemporaneously with the papers to which they pertain.

4. Proofs of Publication

Proofs of Publication shall be filed with the Clerk at least five (5) days prior to the day of hearing.

(Rev. 1/1/2020, 1/1/2021, 7/1/2024, [7/1/2026](#))

E. Hearings and Tentative Rulings

1. Notices of Hearing

Notices of hearing on cases scheduled for hearing on the Regular Probate Calendar shall indicate the time for the commencement of the calendar.

2. Tentative Rulings – Regular Probate Calendar

During the court day preceding each weekly Regular Probate Calendar, by approximately 2:00 p.m., the Court will issue a tentative ruling for each matter noticed on such calendar. The tentative ruling may be obtained online on the court's website at www.sonoma.courts.ca.gov between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the day before the hearing (Click on the "Online Services" tab on the home page, select "Tentative Rulings" in the drop-down menu, and then click on the link to "Probate"). The Tentative Rulings will also be posted outside the probate department the day of the hearing. For tentative rulings by phone, please call (707) 521-6607.

- a. Parties who do not object to the tentative ruling need not appear at the hearing, unless the ruling requires appearances, or another party has requested a hearing pursuant to the procedure in subdivision (b) below.
- b. Any interested party who wishes to be heard in relation to the tentative ruling must call 707-521-6893 and leave a brief message that includes the name and telephone number of the party calling and the case name and number. Any interested party who wishes to be heard in relation to or opposition to a tentative ruling must also notify the attorneys for all represented parties as well as all unrepresented parties of their intent to appear. Notifications to the court and all attorneys and unrepresented parties must be completed no later than 4:00 p.m. on the court day immediately preceding the day of the hearing.
- c. Unless notification has been given as provided in (b), above, the tentative rulings shall become the rulings of the Court, on the day of the hearing. Signed orders on approved matters are generally available at the Probate Clerk's Office within hours after the hearing and are not immediately available after the hearing.

3. Appearances

No appearances are required for pre-approved matters unless an interested person has asked to be heard in response to the tentative ruling and has given the required notice of such a request.

(Rev. and Renumbered 1/1/2024, Rev. 7/1/2024)

F. Contested Matters

1. Written Objections

- a. Before the Court will conduct a hearing in any contested

proceeding, the party(ies) opposing or objecting to a petition, accounting or other matter scheduled for hearing shall file verified, written objections specifying the grounds for such objection or opposition. If oral objections are made at a hearing, the court may continue the matter in order to have the objections submitted in writing. This rule does not apply to matters coming before the court under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act.

- b. Interested persons who oppose the granting of a petition for appointment of a guardian are encouraged to use Sonoma County form PR-9 (Objection(s) to Appointment of Guardian of the Person) to file objections.

2. Meet and Confer Requirement

In the event of any contest or objection to any petition on the probate calendar, the parties or their respective attorneys shall make a reasonable and good faith attempt to informally resolve the controversy at a face-to-face conference, if possible, otherwise by telephone conference, before any hearing of the contested petition. If such resolution is not possible, then each party shall file a Statement of Issues as provided in 3, below.

3. Statement of Issues or Settlement

At least seven (7) **court days** before the hearing, each party shall either (1) notify the Probate Clerk in the Superior Court Clerk's Office or the probate department that the controversy has been resolved; or (2) file and serve the Statement of Issues.

Each Statement of Issues must:

- a. Indicate that the parties or their respective attorneys have met face-to-face or, if that is not possible, have participated in a telephone conference to discuss the issues in dispute,
- b. identify the substantial issues in the controversy, with references to any supporting evidence and/or legal authority,
- c. include each party's opinion of any barriers to settlement,
- d. provide an estimate of the time requirement for the hearing or resolution,
- e. include each party's opinion as to the appropriate method for

resolving the controversy (i.e., mediation, arbitration, short cause trial, etc.).

4. **Contested Matters on Probate Calendar**
When the hearing on a contested matter is estimated to be 20 minutes or less, the hearing will be held before the Probate Judge on the Regular Probate Calendar if time permits. Otherwise, the matter will be set for an extended hearing.
5. **Transfer to Trial Calendar**
If the hearing on a contested matter is estimated to exceed twenty (20) minutes or a jury trial is demanded, and counsel appear at the probate calendar, the matter may be transferred to the short cause calendar or may be assigned directly to one judge for all purposes.

(Rev. 1/1/2021, 7/1/2024)

G. Ex Parte Applications and Stipulated Petitions

1. **Ex Parte Procedure**
 - a. **Same Day Ex Parte Matters**

If a party has reason to believe that an order is urgently needed to prevent irreparable harm or immediate danger to person or property, that party may file a Same Day Ex Parte application for relief. Filing fees must be paid, and in the event a new case is being commenced a case number must be assigned, before a party presents any application for ex parte relief.

An order granting or denying a Same Day Ex Parte matter is generally available for pickup at 2:00 p.m. on the day it is presented.

- b. **Drop-Off Ex Parte Matters**

Ex Parte Applications not based on an urgent need to prevent irreparable harm or immediate danger to person or property may be submitted to the Court as a “Drop-Off Ex Parte Matter” where otherwise authorized by statute, Rules of Court, court order, or these rules. All Drop-Off Ex Parte Matters must include “Drop-Off Ex Parte Matter” on the caption. Failure to include “Drop-Off Ex Parte Matter” on the caption will cause the pleading to be reviewed as a Same Day Ex Parte application and will be denied if it does not meet the standard for a Same Day Ex Parte application.

The following matters are expressly authorized to be presented as Drop-Off Ex Parte Matters:

- i. Approval of a stipulation, including a stipulated petition to approve settlement agreement;
 - ii. Petitions for letters of special administration;
 - iii. Stipulated applications for a continuance of a hearing or trial;
 - iv. Matters authorized to be presented to the court ex parte by statute or Rules of Court (with citation to authorizing statute or Rules of Court);
 - v. Requests to advance a hearing date and/or shorten time;
 - vi. Applications to correct an order;
 - vii. Applications to increase bond;
 - viii. Petitions to appoint a guardian ad litem;
 - ix. Petitions for final discharge and order;
 - x. Petitions for allowance or rejection of a creditor's claim (by attorney or personal representative); or
 - xi. Petitions requesting court appointment of counsel.
- xii. Petitions for appointment of successor trustee where all parties consent and waive notice. The ex parte petition for appointment of successor trustee must address the issue of bond, even if Petitioner's position is that no bond is required, and must specifically address the legal basis for appointing the proposed trustee under California Probate Code § 15660, et seq.

The Court does not consider a Probate Code § 850 Petition (Heggstad petition), Probate Code § 15403 or § 15409 petitions as drop off ex parte matters. The Court may, with a sufficient showing of exigency per California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1202(c), consider such as an emergency same day ex parte, presuming they are also accompanied by waiver(s) of notice and consent(s).

An order granting or denying a Drop-Off Ex Parte Matter is generally available for pickup at 2:00 p.m. on the day which is five (5) court days after it is presented.

c. Hearing May be Required

The Court may deem that any matter presented on an ex parte basis, whether opposed or unopposed, requires a hearing. If a hearing is required, the matter will be set by the Court on the regular probate calendar on a date chosen by the Court. The Court

may shorten time or overset an existing probate calendar on its own motion if it deems such is necessary.

If a hearing is required, the party presenting the ex parte application will be notified of the date and time of the hearing and that party shall be required to provide notice of the date and time to all parties entitled to notice within two (2) court days thereafter, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

2. Timing of Ex Parte Matters

Applications for ex parte relief are accepted Monday-Friday and reviewed in chambers. No personal appearance is required to request or oppose an ex parte matter.

The application and all supporting documents must be filed with the Sonoma County Court Clerk's Office, Probate Division, before 10:00 a.m. to be considered presented on that day. The judicial officer may decline to consider untimely applications on the merits.

Papers in opposition to an ex parte matter must also be filed with the Sonoma County Court Clerk's Office, Probate Division, by 10:00 a.m. on the day the ex parte application is presented.

3. Contents of Application and [Proposed] Order

An application for any ex parte order must be verified and must contain sufficient evidentiary facts to justify the issuance of an order. Conclusions or statements of ultimate facts are not sufficient, and a foundation must be shown for the declarant's personal knowledge.

Except where a Judicial Council or local form that includes an order is used, an application for an ex parte order must be accompanied by a separate order which is complete in and of itself and which specifies all relief ordered by the Court. For example, it is not sufficient for such order to provide merely that the application has been granted, or that the sale of property set forth in the petition has been approved.

4. Notice and Special Notice

Unless otherwise expressly provided for by applicable statute or rule of court, the form and content of notice to all interested parties and parties who requested special notice shall be provided in accordance with the California Rules of Court applicable to civil ex parte matters, including timely notice of the date, time, and place for the presentation of the ex parte matter. The application must be accompanied by a declaration

identifying all persons entitled to notice under the applicable sections of the Probate Code, California Rules of Court (including special notice), or these rules, and it must evidence compliant notice or set forth the facts and legal authority upon which the applicant requests an order dispensing with notice.

6.9 GUARDIANSHIPS

A. General

The Guardianship Rules for Sonoma County Superior Court set forth local policies and procedures of the guardianship department. These rules do not attempt to restate or summarize statutory or case law in general. Guidance on guardianship law and practice may be found in publications such as California Guardianship Practice which is published by CEB Continuing Education of the Bar - California.

These rules, although binding on parties, may be departed from at the discretion of the Court.

B. Calendaring Guidelines

Calendaring information on the Guardianship calendars may be found on the court's website, at <http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/online-services/calendars/probate>.

C. Contact Information

Website: For current contact information, tentative rulings, and the online guardianship calendars parties should refer to the court's website at: www.sonoma.courts.ca.gov.

All local forms referred to in this rule are available and can be downloaded from the court website.

One or more of the following may be helpful in matters presented to the Guardianship Court.

1. Clerk of the Probate Court: The mailing address of the Probate Clerk is ~~62500~~ Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. The physical address of the Probate Clerk's Office is [625 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403](#) ~~3055 Cleveland Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403~~ (first floor).
2. Probate Court Examiner: The mailing address of the Probate Court Examiner is [625 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403](#) ~~3055~~

~~Cleveland Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.~~ The email address is ProbateExaminer@sonomacourt.org.

3. Office of the Probate Court Investigator: The mailing address of the Office of the Probate Court Investigator is ~~62500~~ Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. The email address is sci@sonomacourt.org.

D. Report of Proposed Guardian

A Report of Proposed Guardian Form shall be filed with any Petition for Appointment of Guardian. (Sonoma County Local Form PR-2). School records must include records of grades and attendance.

E. Investigations

1. The Office of the Probate Court Investigator shall make an investigation and file a report and recommendation with the court concerning each proposed guardianship of the person and estate where the proposed guardian is a relative.
2. Any investigation of a proposed guardianship of any non-relative proposed guardian shall be made by the county agency designated to investigate potential dependency.
3. When there are competing petitions of proposed guardians, the Court Investigator should file a CI Memo with the Court to inform the Court of the competing petitions and the need for an order from the Court before the investigation can begin.
4. If the Court orders an investigation of both proposed guardians, the resulting report to the court should be informational only and should not include recommendations.
5. The Court may choose to refer a matter to the local child welfare agency for an evaluation, investigation, and findings to determine if the minor may be described by Welfare and Institution Code 300 and that an application to commence Juvenile Court Proceedings and obtain a decision from a Social Worker may be appropriate. Welfare and Institutions Code § 329.
 - a. If the Court makes a referral for a Welfare and Institutions Code § 329 investigation and determination, the Probate Court Investigation shall pause the investigation. Welfare and Institutions Code § 319.1.

- b. The assigned social worker shall file a report with their findings and conclusion with the Probate Court within three weeks.
- c. If a child involved in Probate Guardianship proceedings becomes the subject of dependency proceedings, custody-related matters will be addressed by Juvenile Court. The finding from the Juvenile Court shall be filed in the probate case. Welfare and Institutions Code § 304.
- d. If the child does not become a subject of dependency, the Probate Court Investigation shall resume the investigation per the order of the court.

F. Petition for Visitation

A request for an order of visitation will be filed using Local Form PR-15, which can be located on the court's public website. The petition will be filed and served on all parties following the Probate Code, California Rules of Court and Local Rules for Conservatorships and Guardianships.

G. Tentative Rulings - Guardianship Calendar

During the court day preceding each weekly guardianship calendar, commencing at 11:00 a.m., or earlier if feasible, the Court will cause a tentative ruling to be recorded for each matter noticed on such calendar. The tentative ruling may be obtained by telephoning (707) 521-6607 or by accessing the Court's website at www.sonoma.courts.ca.gov and selecting the option for Tentative Rulings. The tentative rulings will also be posted outside of the guardianship department.

1. Parties who do not object to the tentative ruling need not appear at the hearing, unless the ruling requires appearances or another party has requested a hearing pursuant to the procedure in subdivision (2), below.
2. Any interested party who wishes to be heard in relation to /the tentative ruling must call 707-521-6893 and leave a brief message that includes the name and telephone number of the party calling and the case name and number. Any interested party who wishes to be heard in opposition to a petition must also notify the attorneys for all represented parties as well as all unrepresented parties of their intent to appear. Notifications to the court and all attorneys and unrepresented parties must be completed no later than 4:00 p.m. on the court day immediately preceding the day of the hearing.

3. Unless notification has been given as provided in (B), above, the tentative rulings shall become the rulings of the court when announced by the courtroom clerk at 9:15 a.m. on the day of the hearing.

(Adopted 1/1/2024, 1/1/2025, [7/1/2026](#))

RULE 9 RULES APPLICABLE TO FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS

9.6 APPEARANCE BY TELEPHONE

~~A. Application~~

~~This rule does not apply to Family Court Services Appointments. This rule does not apply when the Department of Child Support Services is requesting the telephonic appearance on behalf of one of the parties. If Department of Child Support Services is the requesting party, they shall make the request as soon as possible after the request is made of them by the party.~~

~~B. General Provision~~

~~A party, an attorney, a witness, or a representative of the child support enforcement agency or other governmental agency may request permission of the court to appear by telephone in any hearing or conference. The Court shall ensure that the appearance of one or more parties by telephone does not result in prejudice to the parties appearing in person.~~

~~C. Requests~~

~~Absent good cause, request for appearance by telephone shall be made by submitting a separate local form, form FL-075, to the Family Law Clerk's Office with the moving papers. If the applicant is the responding party, the attorney for the responding party, another party, or a witness, the request must be submitted to the Family Law Clerk's Office no later than (5) five calendar days after the date of service of the moving papers. The request by the responding party shall be served on the other parties.~~

~~D. Opposition~~

~~Opposition to the application must be made in writing no later than five (5) court days from service of the application for telephone appearance.~~

~~E. Court Order on Application~~

~~Application and/or opposition shall be submitted to the judicial assistant for the designated family law judicial officer. All requests and opposition papers must include a daytime telephone number and a fax number, if available, for~~

~~notification purposes. The court will rule on the application at least (5) five court days before the hearing. If the application is not contested and the court has not ruled on the application by that time, the application is deemed granted. If opposition is filed, the parties will be notified of the judicial officer's decision at least 48 hours before the hearing.~~

~~If a party's request to appear telephonically is denied less than (5) five days before the hearing, the party shall have the right to a continuance in order to make travel arrangements to attend the hearing.~~

~~The determination as to whether a party may appear by telephone shall be made by the court on a case-by-case basis. At any time before or during a proceeding or hearing, the court may determine that a personal appearance would materially assist in deciding the proceeding or hearing and order the matter continued.~~

~~F. — Costs~~

~~The party appearing by telephone will be required to pay a fee directly to the vendor who provides the telephonic appearance services. The fee may be waived if an Order Granting Fee Waiver has been issued by the court.~~

~~(Rule 9.6 repealed effective July 1, 2026; adopted effective 7/1/2005; Rev. 7/1/2007, 7/1/2008, 1/1/2009, 7/1/2009, 7/1/2010; 1/1/2012, 7/1/2012, 7/1/2014, 1/1/2016, 1/1/2018, 7/1/2024,)~~

9.10 CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

A. Purpose

The purpose of a Case Management Conference is to provide judicial management in family law matters in order to expedite the process of the case, reduce expense of litigation, and focus on early resolution by assisting the parties in establishing processes and procedures to bring a case to a final disposition in an effective and timely manner pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 5.83 and Family Code § 2450.

At the Case Management Conference, the court may:

1. Provide early neutral case evaluation;
2. Suggest Alternative Dispute Resolution;
3. Bifurcate issues and set these issues for trial;

4. Make special referrals such as co-parent counseling;
5. Order completion of Declarations of Disclosure if they have not been timely exchanged pursuant to Family Code § 2104(f);
6. Limit, schedule or expedite discovery, including disclosure of expert witnesses;
7. Appoint joint experts upon stipulation of the parties and order allocation of payment for experts;
8. File stipulations the parties reach on temporary issues or that narrow the other issues;
9. Schedule a hearing on issues that are critical to the progress of the case (e.g. appointment of minor's counsel, appointment of experts);
10. Set the case on a dismissal calendar for failure to serve (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 583.210) or failure to adjudicate (CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 583.310), unless CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 583.161 applies;
11. Review other case management options under Family Code § 2451 with counsel, their clients and self-represented parties;
12. Take such other actions and make orders regarding case flow management which would tend to promote a just and efficient disposition of the case.

B. Requests to Reset/Advance/Set Case Management Conference

The Court may set a Case Management Conference by issuing a Setting Order (FL-073). Parties, upon a showing of good cause, may request to set, reset or advance the Case Management Conference by submitting the Case Management Conference form (FL-092). Setting Orders shall provide at least 45 days advance notice of the court date. All parties must complete the Case Management Conference Statement portion of form, FL-092, and have it filed and served on all parties at least 10 calendar days prior to the Case Management Conference.

Parties requesting to set, advance or reset a Case Management Conference are required to complete page two (2) of form FL-092.

C. Appearances

Self-represented parties and attorneys of record must appear at the Case Management Conference unless excused by the Court. Failure to appear at the Case Management Conference may result in sanctions. If the Department of

Child Support Services is a party to the action, their appearance is not required unless requested by the Court.

D. ~~Drops from the Case Management Conference Calendar~~

~~A case shall not be dropped from the Case Management Calendar until a final judgment addressing all issues in the case has been filed with the court.~~

(Eff. 1/1/2008; Rev. 7/1/2008, 1/1/2009, 7/1/2009, 7/1/2010; Revised and Renumbered 7/1/2011 – formerly Rule 9.10; Rev. 1/1/2012, 7/1/2012, 1/1/2013, 2/24/14, Renumbered 1/1/2016, Rev. 1/1/2021, 7/1/2024, 7/1/2025, [7/1/2026](#))

9.11 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS (FAMILY CODE §§ 6200-6389)

- A. [All requests for domestic violence restraining orders must adhere to the requirements of Family Code section 6200 et seq.](#) ~~Notice of the intent to file an ex parte/emergency Request for Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DV-100) or Request to Change or End Restraining Order (DV-300), and delivery of the application, including all declarations, attachments, and documents intended for court review, must be given to the opposing party or attorney by 10:00 a.m. the day before the application is scheduled to be reviewed by the assigned judicial officer. The notice requirement can be waived by the Court if (1) notice is impossible, (2) notice would frustrate the very purpose of the order, or (3) immediate and irreparable harm could be suffered if notice were given. See Local Form FL-016 for information for applicants. A completed FL-016 must be submitted when making a request for ex parte/emergency Domestic Violence orders.~~
- B. Opposition papers must be received by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the review. A copy of the opposition papers shall also be served personally, by fax or e-mail on the opposing party by 8:00 a.m. on the day of judicial review. If service of the opposition papers is not possible, a declaration shall be filed providing the reasons for the lack of service. ~~See Local Form FL-016.~~
- C. Judicial review of the requests for temporary orders shall be conducted Monday through Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m. by a judicial officer designated by the Presiding Judge. At the discretion of the judicial officer, oral argument may be taken. If this is to occur, the court will notify counsel or parties by noon on the day of the review. If counsel or parties wish to appear by telephone, their pleadings shall indicate.

(Eff. 7/1/13; Renumbered 1/1/2016; 7/1/2017, 7/1/2024, 7/1/2025, 1/1/2026, [7/1/2026](#))

9.12 **EX PARTE/EMERGENCY FAMILY LAW ORDERS**

It is the policy of this court not to grant ex parte/emergency orders changing the status quo with respect to child custody, parenting plans or residence exclusion without a very strong factual showing of grave danger or severe detriment to the child prior to the time the issues can be properly set for a noticed hearing with both parties present and afforded an opportunity to be heard. The court may, in its discretion, refer the matter to Family Court Services for a child custody recommending counseling appointment prior to signing an order shortening time for the prompt calendaring of the matter at the earliest available option on the Court's calendar.

A. Declarations

1. Factual Basis

All declarations shall be based upon personal knowledge of the declarant. Declarations containing hearsay are subject to a motion to strike the whole unless the hearsay is substantiated by a supplemental declaration by the hearsay declarant.

2. Extraordinary Relief

A very specific declaration must be given when extraordinary relief is sought. A specific declaration includes the dates of incidents, detailed descriptive facts and specific harm threatened or actually caused. Conclusions, feelings, wishes or fears alone will not support an ex parte/emergency order. Extraordinary relief includes without limitation: temporary custody of children, temporary possession and use of personal property, limited contact with children, or removal of one party from the family residence.

3. Declarations Upon Ex Parte/Emergency Application

Ex parte/Emergency orders are sometimes rendered without giving an opportunity for the parties to be personally seen and heard. The temptation to indulge on paper in unrestrained exaggeration is ever-present. Concealment of relevant facts is a danger. Accordingly, attorneys, parties and persons employed to type pleadings (typing services) shall adhere to the highest standards of full disclosure in preparing the declarations in support of ex parte/emergency orders.

4. Change of Status Quo

THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE DUTY TO DISCLOSE THE FACT THAT A REQUESTED EX PARTE/EMERGENCY ORDER WILL RESULT IN A

CHANGE OF THE STATUS QUO.

B. Notice

Notice of the intent to file an ex-parte/emergency request for temporary family law orders must be given to the opposing party or attorney by 10:00 a.m. one court day before the application is scheduled to be reviewed by the assigned judicial officer. This notice requirement can be waived by the court if (1) notice is impossible, or (2) notice would frustrate the very purpose of the order, or (3) immediate and irreparable harm could be suffered if notice were given.

Local Form FL-016 and Judicial Council form FL-303 have been adopted for optional use in advising the Court that you have given notice to the other side. See either form for information for applicants. A completed FL-016 or FL-303 must be submitted to the court when your request for temporary/emergency orders is submitted. [This section shall not apply to requests pursuant to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act per California Rule of Court 5.165.](#)

C. Delivery of Application

The application, including all declarations, attachments, and documents intended for court review shall be delivered to the opposing party/attorney by 11:00 a.m. one court day before the application is scheduled to be reviewed by the assigned judicial officer. A blank copy of Local Form CA-106 must be delivered to the opposing party/attorney with the applicant's documents. [This section shall not apply to requests pursuant to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act per California Rule of Court 5.165.](#)

D. Opposition

Opposition papers must be received by the Court on the day the application is scheduled to be reviewed by the assigned judicial officer. A copy of the opposition papers shall also be served personally, by fax or e-mail ([only if the party is represented by counsel or a self-represented party has consented to email service](#)) on the opposing party or attorney by 9:30 a.m. on the day of judicial review. Local Form CA-106 has been adopted for optional use in submitting opposition. Information for the opposing party is included with form CA-106.

E. Judicial Review

Judicial review of the applications for ex parte/emergency family law orders shall be conducted Monday through Friday beginning at 10:00 a.m. by a judicial officer designated by the Presiding Judge.

At the discretion of the judicial officer, oral argument may be taken. If this is to occur, the court will notify counsel or parties by noon on the day of the review. If counsel or parties wish to appear by telephone, their pleadings shall so indicate.

F. Set Aside of Ex Parte/Emergency Order (Domestic Violence and Family Law)

If a responding party requests an ex parte/emergency order be set aside prior to the date set for hearing on the Domestic Calendar, notice shall be given to the moving party in the same manner as described in Sonoma County Local Rules, Rule 9.12 and 9.13. The judicial officer may order an earlier hearing date or modify the orders on a proper showing in lieu of setting aside the orders.

(Eff. 7/1/2005; Rev. 1/1/2007, 7/1/2007, 1/1/2008, 1/1/2009, 7/1/2009, 1/1/2010, 7/1/2010; Revised and Renumbered 7/1/2011 – formerly Rule 9.11; Rev. 1/1/2012, 7/1/2012, 7/1/2013, 7/1/2014; 7/1/2015; Renumbered 1/1/2016, 1/1/2019, 7/1/2024, [7/1/2026](#))

9.14 MEDIATION AND CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING
(CCRC)

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Mediation and CCRC session is to reduce the acrimony which may exist between the parties and to develop a custody/visitation plan which ensures minor child(ren)'s frequent and consistent contact with their parents, when it is in their best interest. All parties shall make a good faith effort to arrive at an agreement regarding child custody and visitation before scheduling appointments with Family Court Services ("FCS"), and before the court hearing, except in those cases where domestic violence or other restraining orders have been issued or are pending a hearing, or where there are allegations of child abuse or neglect currently under investigation.

B. Services

1. Confidential Mediation (Tier I): Tier I referrals are for confidential mediation for families unable to reach an agreement regarding custody and parenting time. Tier I mediations shall be made available in all cases in which child custody or visitation is an issue, except at the discretion of the Court in cases filed under the Domestic Violent Protection Act.
 - a. Children shall not participate in Tier I.
 - b. Tier I is confidential except the mediator may report any suspected child abuse, elder abuse, if someone is a danger to themselves or others or if a parent reports to have committed

or intends to commit a serious crime.

- c. All cases filed with the Clerk's Office will be calendared in Tier I.
 - d. Any agreements reached by the parties, as well as any outstanding issues, will be reported to the Court and the parties, via a written report.
 - e. A hearing will be calendared following a Tier I session.
2. Information Review and Summary (Tier II): Tier II referrals are to review specific information filed with the Court. A judicial officer has the discretion to include specific areas of inquiry in a Tier II referral including but not limited to, local criminal records, Child Protective Services records, and child interviews. [The Tier I mediator has the discretion to initiate a Tier II Information Review and Summary in matters where reported information would assist the Court.](#) Tier II summary reports will be provided to the Court and the parties. The confidentiality of Tier II sessions is limited as a summary report is provided to the Court.
- a. A review hearing will be calendared when a Tier II session is ordered.
 - b. Parties may not stipulate to bypass any tier in the tiered Family Court Services process.
3. Child Custody Recommending Counseling (Tier III): The Court may refer parties to Tier III, child custody recommending counseling sessions. The child custody recommending counselor ([CCRC](#)) will report on any agreements reached. In the absence of any agreements, recommendations will be made based on the child(ren)'s best interest. Tier III reports will be provided to the Court and the parties. The confidentiality of Tier III is limited as a report is provided to the Court.
- a. A review hearing will be calendared when a Tier III session is ordered.
 - b. [In order to preserve the confidentiality of Tier I mediation, every effort will be made to schedule a subsequent Tier III session with a different mediator/CCRC than the one conducting the Tier I session.](#) ~~In the absence of unusual circumstances as determined by the Director of Family Law or order of the Court after a hearing before a judicial officer, mediators will not be assigned to conduct Tier III sessions.~~
4. Relocation Mediation (Tier IV): The Court may refer parties to Tier IV relocation mediation sessions when one parent is moving, and the other

remains, and a request is made to the Court to change custody orders. The child custody recommending counselor will report on any agreements reached. Without agreements, recommendations will be made based on the child(ren)'s best interest. In order to preserve the confidentiality of Tier I mediation, every effort will be made to schedule a subsequent Tier IV session with a different mediator/CCRC. Tier IV reports will be provided to the Court and the parties. The confidentiality of Tier IV is limited as a report is provided to the Court.

C. Referral to the Online Orientation Program and Family Court Services

All Requests for Orders regarding custody or parenting plan issues must be filed and served with Further Orders for Parties with Custody and Visitation Matters Local Form FL-017. Appointment dates for mediation ~~or child custody recommending counseling appointments (hereafter referred to as recommending counseling)~~ may be obtained through the Clerk's Office on the date of filing. No contested child custody or parental contact cases, including requests for review dates and requests for modifications, will be heard by the Court unless and until the parties have been provided appropriate opportunity to view an orientation class and attend a mediation or recommending counseling session.

All parties shall be directed to view the online orientation program and complete an online intake form, prior to attending the mediation or recommending counseling appointment as directed on the Further Orders for Parties with Custody and Visitation Matters document.

D. Documents to be Delivered and Reviewed by the Mediator/Child Custody Recommending Counselor

All relevant materials to be considered by Family Court Services must be served on all other parties or counsel as outlined below. E-mail delivery is permitted upon the attorney of a represented party. Assistance with how to serve documents can found at: <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/court-basics/service>. E-mail service is not permitted upon a self-represented party without the party's express consent on the Judicial Council Consent to Electronic Service and Notice of Electronic Service Address, Judicial Council form EFS-005-CV.

Service shall be as follows:

1. Moving documents must be filed and served on all other parties, or counsel if represented, no less than seven (7) court days before the FCS appointment. If service is by US Mail, documents must be mailed seven (7) court days plus five (5) calendar days before the FCS appointment. Proof of service is required. Responding documents must be filed and served no less than two (2) court days before the FCS appointment. If service is by US Mail, documents must be mailed two (2) court days plus five (5) calendar days

before the FCS appointment.

2. For review hearings, supplemental pleadings must be served on all other parties, or counsel if represented, no less than ten (10) court days before the FCS appointment. If service is by US mail, documents must be mailed ten (10) court days plus five (5) calendar days before the FCS appointment. This does not affect either party's right to timely file any appropriate pleadings with the Court before the review hearing itself. Documents filed or served after the time outlined in this paragraph will not be reviewed by the FCS staff. Courtesy copies shall not be submitted.
3. No court documents shall be served or exchanged at Family Court Services. Recordings, electronic communication and photos shall not be submitted or shared at the time of the session.

E. Complaints or Requests for Change of Mediator or Recommending Counselor

Any request for a change of mediator or recommending counselors must be received by the Office of the Court Executive Officer or their designee no later than 30 calendar days after the mediation or recommending counseling session and should be addressed to the Court Executive Officer. Requests or complaints received after this time will not be considered. The request or the complaint should be completed and submitted using the Family Court Services Complaint Process Regarding a Mediator/Child Custody Recommending Counselor online form. A response to the complaint will be issued in writing 30 calendar days after the complaint is received. The other party will be copied with the response.

Complaints or disagreements related to the content of the Family Court Services report must be addressed with the Court.

F. Contact with Family Court Services

No party, attorney, or the Court is permitted to have ex parte contact with the assigned Family Court Services mediator or recommending counselor about [substantive matters in the pending case](#). [Scheduling and other procedural matters shall not be considered substantive for purposes of this section.](#)

Minor's counsel may contact Family Court Services according to Family Code § 3151(c)5 to obtain and provide relevant information regarding the child(ren) they represent. However, Family Court Services is prohibited from contacting the minor's counsel according to California Rules of Court, Rule 5.235.

Unsolicited communications (e-mails and correspondence via regular mail) are not permitted and will not be reviewed or considered.

G. Appointment of Child Custody Evaluators

1. Referral:

In the event of a referral to a private psychological expert for a custody evaluation and report, the parties shall complete the Order Appointing Child Custody Evaluator (FL-327) and the Court shall make an order regarding the payments of the costs of such evaluation at the time the evaluation is ordered.

2. Time Limits:

Custody Evaluation Reports will be lodged with the Court within ninety (90) days of the date such investigation has commenced (120 days if one party resides outside the county). The “commencement date” for a report by a private psychological expert shall be when the parties have paid the required deposit/retainer and submitted any required paperwork.

Custody Evaluation Reports are confidential and shall be distributed to parties, attorneys, experts, and the Court. The report, or any portions thereof, shall not be shown or distributed to any other person or used or attached to any document filed with the Court, except as authorized by the Court. Upon a request by the evaluator or a party, the Court may make additional and/or more limited restrictions regarding the release and distribution of the report. The Court shall impose sanctions for any unauthorized distribution or use of the report.-

3. Complaints or Requests for Change of Private Evaluator:

An evaluator may only be disqualified or removed at the request of a party on grounds that are similar to the disqualification or removal of a judicial officer, referee or arbitrator (Code of Civil Procedure § 170.1).

An evaluator may decline appointment. Once appointed, an evaluator may petition the Court for withdrawal by submitting a letter to the Court, with copies to counsel and/or self-represented parties. The letter shall state the reasons for the request for withdrawal. The Court shall thereafter set a hearing to determine whether the request will be granted and if granted, to appoint a new evaluator.

A party with a grievance regarding an evaluator shall first meet with the evaluator to attempt to resolve the issue, if the evaluator is willing to meet. If the evaluator is not willing to meet, or if after meeting with the evaluator, the grievance is unresolved, complaints regarding an evaluator shall be directed

to the Family Law Judicial Officer who is or has been hearing the case. The complaint shall be in writing and should set forth the case name, number and the nature of the complaint, including all the facts and circumstances with as much clarity and specificity as possible.

4. Contact with Private Child Custody Evaluator:

No party, attorney, or the Court is permitted to have any ex parte contact with the assigned child custody evaluator about the pending case, except as directed by the child custody evaluator during the custody evaluation procedure.

H. Appointment of Parent Coordinator

1. Parties may stipulate to the appointment of a Parent Coordinator or Parent Coordinator Team.
2. Parent Coordinator Team: If the parties stipulate to the appointment of a Parent Coordinator Team, the parties or their attorneys, if represented by counsel, shall contact the proposed mental health and attorney members of the Team to obtain their consent to act as a Team. The Team may only be appointed by agreement of both parties and upon each Team member signing the Stipulation and Order Regarding Appointment of Parenting Coordinator (Local Form FL030) and the attorneys for the parties signing The Role of the Client's Attorney in Parent Coordinator Cases (Local Form FL031). Any requested modifications to the provisions of the local forms must be approved by each Team member. A Stipulation and Order for Appointment of Parent Coordinator Team may only be submitted to the Court for approval and signature after obtaining the confirming signatures of the mental health and attorney members of the Team.
3. Attorneys and mental health professionals who want to be appointed as parent coordinators must complete the application for approval to serve as a parent coordinator (FL-037) and submit it to the Court.
4. The Court shall maintain a list of approved Parent Coordinators who have satisfied the requirements set forth in the application.
5. The Court shall annually contact the parent coordinators on the list and request declarations from them stating their current education and licensing status.

I. Appointment of Minor's Counsel

Family Code § 3150 Appointments

1. The Court may appoint counsel to represent a child in a custody proceeding. Upon appointment of Minor's Counsel, all mediation or child custody recommending counseling services provided by Family Court Services are immediately terminated. The Court shall require the parties to submit financial information, such as an Income and Expense Declaration, in order to consider whether the parties are able to pay the minor's counsel fees. The appointed attorney shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses. The Court shall set the attorney's hourly rate taking into consideration the parties' financial circumstances. The rate may be up to the attorney's full hourly rate. The Court shall apportion payment of the hourly rate between the parties depending on the parties' respective financial circumstances. The Court may order the parties to submit updated financial information.
2. If the Court finds that the parties cannot afford to compensate the minor's counsel, the appointed counsel shall be compensated at the rate established by the Superior Court of Sonoma County.

Fees and expenses including, but not limited to, travel time, mileage to or from any location, tolls, photocopy charges, telephone or fax costs, secretarial or document processing fees, postage, preparation of billing package, and court runner and messenger fees, shall not be reimbursed. Fees shall not be charged by the Court for the filings of appointed counsel. The Court shall make an order of appointment, which will include the rate of payment and an expiration date for the appointment. Minor's counsel appointments will be reviewed annually, and the Court may require additional Income and Expense Declaration submissions by the parties to determine whether a change in circumstances has enabled the parties to pay future minor's counsel fees.

The appointed counsel shall submit invoices for payment on a monthly basis. The Court uses a fiscal year that operates from July 1st - June 30th. Request for payment by appointed counsel must be submitted on Local Form FL-021, Declaration and Order for Payment of Court Appointed Minor's Counsel Fees, within the fiscal year that the services were performed, or the invoice will not be paid. The only exception is at the close of the fiscal year (June 30th), where the appointed counsel may submit an invoice for work performed in the last month of the fiscal year by July 31st of that calendar year.

When submitting Local Form FL-021 to the Court for reimbursement, the appointed counsel must include a detailed invoice that clearly describes the services provided and the hours assigned to each service. All requests for payment are subject to judicial review. If the reviewing judge seems the charges excessive or not conforming to this rule, charges may be reduced or disallowed.

All requests for payment are subject to judicial review. If the reviewing

judge deems the charges excessive or not conforming to this rule, charges may be reduced or disallowed.

3. Application for Appointment for Family Code § 3150 Appointments:

- a. To apply to be on the court-approved attorney panel for Family Code § 3150 appointments, an attorney must file an application and confirmation that they have met the educational requirements with the family law supervising judge.
- b. The Court will evaluate the application and notify the applicant within 30 days of the Court's decision.
- c. The Court will only appoint attorneys who are members of the court-approved attorney panel.

4. Annual Review:

- ~~a. Upon appointment of minor's counsel, the Court will set an annual review of the appointment of minor's counsel. This date will be approximately twelve 12 months after the first appearance of minor's counsel in the case.~~
- b. ~~At the annual review~~ On an annual basis, the Court will determine whether the minor's counsel has satisfied their education requirements as set forth in California Rules of Court, Rule 5.242(c-e). Minor's counsel shall submit an application to renew in order to remain available to serve as minor's counsel.
- ~~c. The annual review will be scheduled in the order of appointment or at the child's counsel's first court appearance of the case.~~

5. Relieving Minor's Counsel of Appointment:

The Court, in its discretion, will consider relieving minor's counsel of appointment under the following circumstances:

- a. At the time a final order or judgment has been filed, or 90 days thereafter, or;
- b. A motion filed by any party for good cause; or
- c. A motion to be relieved filed by the minor's counsel if the minor's counsel does not believe they can effectively represent the child; or

- d. At the annual review; or
- e. Minor's counsel will not be relieved if the Court, upon a showing of good cause, deems it necessary to extend the appointment, or if the Court requests periodic review or monitoring of the child related issues before the Court. At any hearing where the Court is considering relieving minor's counsel, the Court will address the issues of reimbursement of fees paid to minor's counsel by the Superior Court. All parties must file current income and Expense Declarations at the hearing.

6. Grievance:

A party or counsel who wishes to lodge a complaint regarding the performance of a minor's counsel appointed by the Court must do so in writing and serve the original of the complaint on the minor's counsel no later than 20 days after the event giving rise to the complaint or within 20 days of receiving any written report of the minor's counsel.

No later than 10 court days after the receipt of the complaint, the minor's counsel must serve the complainant with a written response to the complaint. Without conceding the accuracy of the contents of the complaint, minor's counsel may ask the Court to relieve them of the appointment and, if appropriate, appoint a new minor's counsel.

If the response served by the minor's counsel does not resolve the complaint, the complainant must serve a copy of the complaint and the response of the minor's counsel, if any, on the supervising family law judge whose decision concerning the complaint, which may include removing the minor's counsel from the panel of minor's counsel used by the Court, will be final. The decision by the supervising judge must be served on the complainant and minor's counsel within 15 court days of receipt.

- 7. Minor's counsel may contact Family Court Services pursuant to Family Code § 3151(c)5 to obtain and provide relevant information regarding the child(ren) they represent. However, Family Court Services is prohibited from contacting the minor's counsel pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 5.235.
- 8. All other aspects of Family Code § 3150 appointments are governed by California Rules of Court 5.240 - 5.242.

J. Family Code § 7860 Appointments

The Court may appoint counsel to represent a child or parent in a freedom from parental custody and control proceeding. The appointed attorney shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, the amount of which shall be determined by the Court. The amount shall be paid by the real parties in interest, other than the child, in proportions the Court deems just.

If the Court finds that the real parties in interest are unable to afford counsel, the amount shall be paid out of the general fund of the county.

All requests for payment are subject to judicial review. If the charges are deemed excessive by the reviewing judge, charges may be reduced or disallowed.

(Eff. 7/1/13; Rev. 7/1/14, Renumbered 1/1/2016; 1/1/2018, 7/1/19, 1/1/2021, 1/2022, 7/1/2024, 1/1/2025, 7/1/2025, [7/1/2026](#))

9.15 CHILD SUPPORT AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT

A. Guidelines for Child and Spousal Support

1. Child support shall be awarded in accordance with Family Code § 3500 et seq. and shall be determined by the use of a Judicial Council approved computer-generated calculation that complies with the formula set forth in Family Code § 4055.
2. Temporary spousal support shall be awarded in accordance with Family Code § 3600 et seq. and may also be determined by the use of a computer-generated calculation that applies the “Alameda Rule”.

The “Alameda Rule” provides:

- a. In cases in which there is no child support, the guideline shall be 40% of the net income of the payor minus 50% of the net income of the payee.
- b. In cases in which there is to be child support, the guideline shall be 35% of the payor’s net income, after deducting the child support amount, minus 40% of the payee’s net income.
- c. If the amount produced is a negative number, the spousal support is zero.

B. Computer Generated Support Calculations

~~With the exception of permanent spousal support matters, in all proceedings in which support is an issue, the parties shall submit an approved computer-generated calculation that sets forth their proposal for child support and/or temporary spousal support.~~

In all matters where child or temporary spousal support is an issue, an approved computer-generated support calculation and explanatory declaration shall be filed, setting forth the assumptions and calculations utilized by that party to determine gross and net income figures, the amounts of child and spousal support calculated pursuant to current state law and/or guidelines, and any other assumptions used in calculating the support. If it is contended by either party that the guideline or presumed level of support is inappropriate, that party's declaration shall set forth their calculation of the amount alleged to be proper and the reasons therefor. The support calculations and explanatory declarations shall be signed by the party or their attorney.

If a support modification is at issue, the parties shall indicate on their respective proposals the date and amount of the order that the court is being asked to modify.

All orders after hearing, including stipulations, that contain child and/or temporary spousal support provisions, including orders for \$0 support, shall have attached a computer-generated support calculation setting forth the guideline amount and the assumptions used by the court in determining the support amount. If the parties do not agree upon a single calculation, each party may attach a computer-generated calculation. ~~Except for Title IV-D matters, t~~ The Court accepts the use of XSpouse as an appropriate computer-generated support calculator.

The Family Law Facilitator is available to assist self-represented parties in preparing support calculations. Support calculation software can be found at the Sonoma County Law Library, or for child support only, online at www.childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/.

C. Reimbursement Issues

Request for reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs for health care and/or childcare must include a summary detailing the cost paid and reimbursement requested. Copies of evidence/exhibits in support of the request for reimbursement shall be submitted with the moving papers.

(Eff. 7/1/2013; Renumbered 1/1/2016; Rev. 1/1/2021, [7/1/2026](#))