

**INFORMATION ABOUT EMERGENCY DEPENDENCY COURT OPERATIONS
EFFECTIVE FROM 3/24/2020 TO 4/15/2020 (2nd Revision – 3/24/2020)**

Dear Dependency Court Partners:

The San Francisco Superior Court has been closely monitoring the public health emergency response to COVID-19 in conjunction with the city's leadership, including the Mayor's Office, Department of Public Health, and CCSF Emergency Services, and the state judicial leadership. The Court continues to be committed to balance access to justice with public health concerns. Due to the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic:

Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through April 15, 2020:

During this time period, all Department 406 and 425 matters will be heard in Department 406 at 9:00 a.m. regardless of the time these matters were originally set. Cases regularly assigned to Department 425 will maintain their assignments.

All dependency hearings will be continued or reset, except for detention hearings and any uncontested matters.

Except for Detention Hearings, **DO NOT COME TO COURT IN PERSON**. All appearances must be by telephone. Call the Clerk in Department 406 at (415) 551-3750. For Detention Hearings, you may appear in person or by phone. If appearing by phone, attorneys must contact the court clerk in Department 406 not later than 8:45 a.m. on the day of the hearing and provide your name, phone number, and case name(s). It is the attorney and/or client's responsibility to be available for the call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

During this time period, parents and children are also not required to appear for Transfer-In Hearings.

Detention and Other Hearings:

For Detention Hearings, provisional appointment of counsel will be made and all required paperwork including financial eligibility form, address form, and ICWA form may be submitted to the court at a later date.

Counsel are encouraged to continue to meet their new clients prior to Detention Hearing via telephone and encourage the client to appear by telephone.

For hearings that are contested, Counsel should meet and confer and provide the courtroom clerk with available dates for future hearings.

For any hearing that is uncontested, counsel should notify the city attorney on the day before the hearing that there is an agreement or that the matter is submitted. The city attorney will notify the Court that the matter is uncontested and the Court will conduct the review, place the agreement on the record, and make findings on the date that the matter is currently calendared at 9:00 a.m.. For

matters where a contested hearing is requested, the Court will make conditional findings and continue the matter for trial setting after April 15, 2020.

For all Detention Hearings, the courtroom will be closed to everyone except court personnel, counsel, the parents/guardians, and the child(ren). The Court may exercise discretion to allow witness testimony by telephone. If you appear in person, please be mindful to follow public health instructions for “social distancing,” including sitting at least 2 seats apart in the courtroom.

AS A REMINDER, THOSE WHO ARE ILL SHOULD STAY HOME; The Court may ask members of the public who are exhibiting visible symptoms of illness such as coughing to leave.

Temporary Order Re: Visitation

The Court has issued a temporary order suspending in-person visitation and setting guidelines for telephone/video contact and other exceptions while the state and local shelter-in-place orders are in effect.

Emergency Court Filings/Reports

During this period, the Court has authorized HSA to submit petitions and reports through a secure server by email.

For questions and concerns, please contact Acting UFC Court Manager Frances Yokota at (415) 551-3914
--