

## **FAMILY LAW**

The San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Family Law Division is performing essential functions. At this time, only essential hearings will be held via CourtCall or remote videoconference, or will be submitted on the paperwork. There will be no in-person hearings, except as approved by the Court.

### **FAQ:**

#### **Q: How do I file a request for a domestic violence restraining order if the Clerk's office is closed?**

A: For detailed information about domestic violence restraining orders, please click on this link:

<https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/sh/selfhelp-domesticviolence.htm>

#### **Q: How do I file legal documents if I have no access to electronic filing?**

A: If it is not possible for you to file documents electronically, you may submit documents by mail or use our drop boxes.

Documents may be mailed to San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, 1035 Palm Street, Room 385, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 **OR** Paso Robles Branch, 901 Park Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

Documents may be placed in the drop boxes located at the entrances of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court at 1035 Palm Street and 1050 Monterey Street.



**\*\* UPDATE: The Drop boxes at the Paso Robles Branch will be AVAILABLE to drop off filings as of 4-5-2021\*\***

#### **Q: How do I file other family law documents while the court is closed?**

A: If you need to complete legal paperwork, you can get forms and information at:

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/formsrules.htm>

You can also look at the [Court's website](#) for further information.

#### **Q: What should I do if I have a mediation scheduled?**

A: Currently, mediation is by phone only. You will call Family Court Services at 805-706-3608 on the day and time of your scheduled mediation.

**Q: If my child and/or I must shelter in place, how do I comply with child custody and visitation orders?**

A: Since the Court is prohibited from giving legal advice, you may wish to seek legal advice or contact the authority issuing the shelter in place order for guidance. You may also review the Family Law Division Guidelines for Parents During the COVID-19 Pandemic, posted on the Court's website here: [Guidelines for Parents During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Court always encourages parties to meet and confer in an attempt to resolve areas of potential dispute, assuming there is no court order restraining contact between the parties. The best interests of children should be paramount in this public health crisis and we encourage all to try to reach agreement, if possible, on any modifications of visitation plans to ensure the safety of children and parents in compliance with shelter in place orders.

If an agreement is reached, written stipulations can be filed and submitted to the Court for approval. The following forms may be used to prepare your agreement:

- Stipulation and Order for Custody and/or Visitation of Children [FL-355](#)
- Child Custody and Visitation (Parenting Time) Order Attachment [FL-341](#)
- Supervised Visitation Order [FL-341\(A\)](#)
- Child Abduction Prevention Order Attachment [FL-341\(B\)](#)
- Children's Holiday Schedule Attachment [FL-341\(C\)](#)
- Additional Provisions—Physical Custody Attachment [FL-341\(D\)](#)
- Joint Legal Custody Attachment [FL-341\(E\)](#)

**Q: Visitation with my child must be supervised by a professional supervisor, and I was notified by the supervisor they were unable to provide supervision due to the shelter in place orders. What should I do?**

A: As in the answer to the preceding question, you may wish to seek legal advice, which we cannot give.

It is up to each provider to evaluate whether they can provide services that are safe to the child and parties. Some providers have decided they are unable to safely provide these services in this crisis. Others have determined they can safely provide services in their situation. Again, as in the preceding question, parties are encouraged to meet and confer if no order prevents that.

Possible agreements include:

- Stipulating to a different professional provider.
- Stipulating to a non-professional supervisor such as relative or close friend with whom both parents and the child are comfortable.

**Q: When is my next hearing?**

A: You can access the Court's website and select the General Information tab. There is a page dedicated to Court Calendars. Please utilize the following link:

<https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/gi/court-calendars.htm>.

You may also call the clerk's office at (805) 706-3600.

If you are an attorney you can access the Court's attorney portal utilizing the following link:

<https://secure.slocourts.net/Portal>

**Q: How do I continue my hearing?**

A: It depends on the type of hearing and who scheduled it. You may call the clerk's office at (805) 706-3600 to discuss options. You may also contact the Court's Self-Help Center at (805) 706-3617 or [finishcase@slo.courts.ca.gov](mailto:finishcase@slo.courts.ca.gov).

**Q: What is the court's mailing address?**

A: The mailing address for the Civil & Family Law Divisions is 1035 Palm. St., Rm. 385, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 **OR** Paso Robles Branch, 901 Park Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

**Q: How do I get a certified copy of my judgment?**

A: You can mail in a request for a certified copy, including a check not to exceed a certain amount (\$40 certification fee and \$.50/page for the copy) and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Court at 1035 Palm Street, Room 385, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 **OR** Paso Robles Branch, 901 Park Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Your certified copy will then be mailed to you.

**Q: Where can I get forms or additional help?**

A: You may contact the Court's Self-Help Center at (805) 706-3617 or [finishcase@slo.courts.ca.gov](mailto:finishcase@slo.courts.ca.gov) or view their website at <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/sh/index.htm>.

Local Court forms are available here: <https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/ff/forms.htm>.

Statewide forms are available here: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>.

**Q: Will the court be hearing ex parte applications and requests for TROs?**

A: The Family Law bench officers will review ex parte applications and requests for temporary restraining orders.

- The Court is accepting the filing of ex parte matters. Please contact the clerk's office at (805) 706-3600 to reserve an ex parte hearing date. The San Luis Obispo County local rules should be followed with respect to filing, notice and service. Ex parte requests will be decided on the papers without a hearing. There will be no hearings, either in person, or by remote appearance.
- Ex parte matters will still be assigned a hearing date, and the Court still requires that the assigned hearing date, time and department are placed on the ex parte requests. The parties shall comply with the filing, service and notice deadlines in the Local Rules of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court.
- Hearings on Requests for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders will be conducted by Zoom or CourtCall. Please call (888) 882-6878 to utilize CourtCall for your hearing. If your hearing is conducted via Zoom, you will receive instructions to appear remotely.

**Q: Will the court be hearing Requests for Orders?**

A: The Family Law bench officers will be hearing Requests for Orders by remote appearance only either by CourtCall or Zoom. Each department will have unique Zoom instructions with Hearing ID and password.

**Q: Which dates have been ordered court holidays for purposes of computing time for filing papers under Code of Civil Procedure sections 12 and 12a?**

A: At this time, the following days have been deemed Court holidays:

- March 16-March 30: Court holidays due to COVID-19
- March 31, 2020: Cesar Chavez Day
- April 8-June 5, 2020: Court holidays due to COVID-19

**FURTHER QUESTIONS:**

The Court's website contains valuable information and may be able to answer further questions. It will continue to be updated with the most current information regarding the [Self-Help Center / Family Law Facilitator's Schedule and Services](#). You may also call the Court at (805) 706-3600.