

# Superior Court for Family Matters

## Standing Orders

### Case Management Orders - Effective December 1, 2009

All cases, except cases for support, paternity or annulment, will be assigned a case management conference date approximately 90 (ninety) days from the return date. To determine the proper case management date, please review form JD-FM-165.

#### Appearance of counsel and parties

- In an uncontested case, if the case management agreement (JD-FM-163) has been filed and the agreement has been approved by the Court, parties and counsel do not have to come to court on the case management conference date unless the date of the case management conference date has been selected as the date for the uncontested dissolution of marriage.
- In a limited contested case (that is, a case that involves financial and/or property disputes only), if the case management agreement and required documents have been filed and the agreement has been approved by the Court, parties and counsel do not have to come to court on the case management conference date.
- If the case is fully contested (that is, it involves issues about custody of and/or access with the minor child), all parties and counsel **must come** to Court for the conference. The filing of a case management agreement **does not do away with** this requirement to come to court.

**Note:** Even if the case is not fully contested, if the case management agreement is not signed by counsel and/or **all** parties and counsel have not included all the required documents, or if the parties have not agreed on discovery deadlines, the parties and counsel **must come** to Court on the case management date. All discovery deadlines on Section III of the case management agreement must include specific dates. If a specific pretrial date is not included or is not available, the Court may assign a **different** date.

#### Uncontested Cases - documents required for case management

- In uncontested cases, the case management agreement must be signed by counsel and if a party is not represented by counsel, then it must be signed by the party, and filed on or before the case management conference date.

#### Limited Contested Cases - documents required for case management

- In limited contested cases (that is, cases that involve financial and/or property disputes only), the case management agreements must be signed by counsel and if a party is not represented by counsel, then it must be signed by the party, and filed on or before the case management conference date. The presiding judge may require the signature of the clients on the case management agreement in a limited contested case. Notice of this requirement in the local judicial district will be posted online.
- If the case is limited contested, both parties must file sworn financial affidavits along with the case management agreement.

- If the case is limited contested and there are minor children, a parenting responsibility plan, signed by the parties, must be filed with the case management agreement.

### **Fully Contested Cases - documents required for case management**

- In fully contested cases, the case management agreements must be signed by parties and counsel and must be filed on or before the case management conference date.
- If the case is fully contested (that is, the case involves issues about custody of and/or access with the minor child), both parties must file sworn financial affidavits along with the case management agreement.

On the case management conference date, in addition to the completion of the case management agreement and sworn financial affidavits, while the parties are in court for the case management conference on the case management date, cases may be referred to the Family Relations Office for screening for services which may include mediation, conflict resolution, evaluation and/or settlement conference. In fully contested custody cases, guardians ad litem for the minor child(ren) (GAL) or attorneys for the minor child(ren) (AMC), or both, may be appointed with an order for payment of fees. In some cases, parties may be ordered to submit to a private forensic custody and/or mental health evaluation. In fully contested custody cases, a party may be ordered to submit to substance abuse evaluation screening.

### **Scheduling of Limited Contested and Fully Contested Cases**

Parties and counsel may review the scheduled court dates on the case detail page on the Judicial Branch website to see if pretrial and/or trial dates have been assigned in their case.

### **Regional Family Trial Docket**

Fully contested custody cases may be referred to the Regional Family Trial Docket. The Regional Family Trial Docket is a statewide contested custody court in Middletown, CT. High conflict custody cases from all state judicial districts are referred to the court. The court is presided over by two experienced family court judges. Cases, when referred, must be ready for trial. When they are referred, the cases are quickly scheduled for a full-day, special masters' pretrial with a mediation team made up of a mental health professional and a family law attorney. If the case does not settle at the pretrial, it is immediately scheduled for a trial in Middletown.

**If the case management agreement and financial affidavits are not in the Court's file by 9:30 a.m. on the case management date, or counsel and self-represented parties do not come to Court on the case management date, the case may be dismissed or other sanctions may be imposed.**

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Bozzuto  
Chief Administrative Judge  
Family Division