

**ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19 AND THE
DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT – updated 6/22/2020**

1. What are the Court's hours of operation?

The Court is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

2. Has my case been continued?

No. The Court is OPEN and no cases have been continued to a later date. However, as indicated below, only cases involving Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders are required to be held in person in the courtroom. All other cases shall be conducted by telephone, unless the Judge/Magistrate in charge of your particular case has mandated the hearing be conducted in person. All parties and attorneys are being contacted by telephone to verify the time and date of the upcoming hearing and whether the hearing will be conducted by telephone or in person.

3. Can my case be handled by telephone?

Yes, in most instances. Except for cases involving Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders, the Court staff is contacting parties and attorneys to verify their upcoming hearing is being heard by telephone. In cases involving Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders, those must be conducted in person in the courtroom.

4. Can Complaints, Petitions and Motions be filed?

Yes. As done previously, all Complaints, Petitions, Motions and other filings can still be mailed to the Court, and provided they comply with the Court's standards for such pleadings and are accompanied by the appropriate filing fee, they will be filed. In addition, all such pleadings can be hand-delivered to the Court by placing them in the bin at the front information desk area that has been designated for Domestic Relations Court cases.

5. Will the Court modify child support and/or spousal support if a party's income has been affected because of a shutdown or reduction in work because of the coronavirus pandemic?

It can, but only if the party takes action to ask for a child or spousal support modification. If a party's income has been substantially decreased because of COVID-19, that party may file a request for an Administrative Modification of Support through the CSEA, or file a Motion for Modification in Child and/or Spousal Support with the Court. Please understand that the child or spousal support deducted from a paycheck will not change until a Court Order is filed with the new support number. Any modifications can be retroactive to the date of filing of the request for modification.

SPECIAL NOTE: This Court routinely asks all parents to rise above problem situations and show themselves to be part of the solution to problems, not just equal contributors to problems. One of the ways a parent shows love for a child is to model how to handle matters when they are difficult by remaining calm, being respectful, following Court Orders, and assuring the child that everything will be all right. This is especially true in times such as now.