

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are all well given recent events. I realize that there has been a fair amount of confusion regarding the status of upcoming family court cases in the Second Judicial District. I had multiple conversations with our judges earlier today and Judge Levy encouraged to share the following information with all of you.

- Please understand that the family court recognizes the importance resolving all DM and DV matters expeditiously and does not take the implications of the following decisions lightly. They must balance their responsibility to family court litigants with our shared responsibility to take all measures necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- In response to the recent directive from Chief Justice Nakamura regarding Coronavirus/Covid 19 and the associated public health crisis, the family court has made the difficult decision to drastically limit the number of DM and DV hearings during the next 30 days. This decision is intended to reduce the high number of people (attorneys, parties and other members of the public) who appear at the courthouse for family court related issues every day.
- **Please note that the courthouse is NOT closed.**
- The vast majority of DM and DV hearings scheduled during the next 30 days are going to be vacated and reset. Revised notices of hearing are forthcoming.
- Emergency matters will be considered on a case by case basis, so you should follow up directly with the Judge/Hearing Officer/Commissioner assigned to those matters regarding status of those hearings.
- There will be a skeleton staff on hand at the courthouse. Judges/Hearing Officers/Commissioners will be on a rotating schedule so that pleadings can be reviewed and orders signed.
- Judges/Hearing Officers/Commissioners and support staff will also be working remotely to stay on top of everything
- During this period, feel free to submit complete pleadings packets and request relief without a hearing when appropriate. Those requests will be considered.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone that I may have inadvertently left off of this e-mail and please understand that I don't have any further information on this topic and cannot provide any answers regarding individual cases.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Sarah

Sarah M. Armstrong, Esq
Chair, Family Law Section