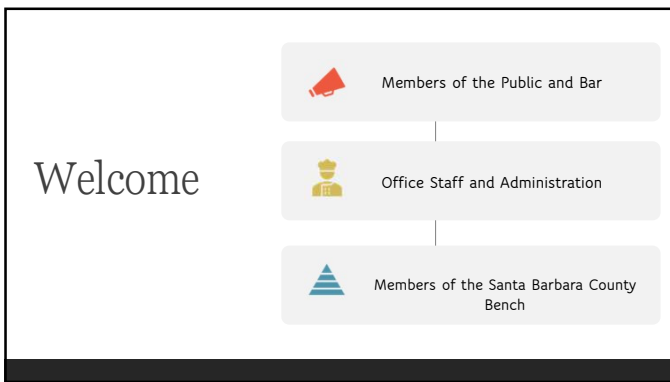
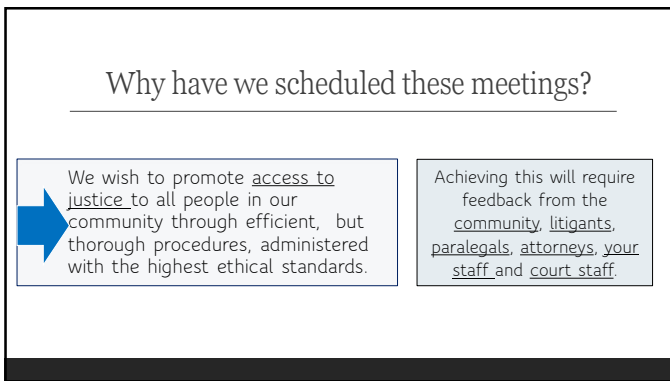




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Remote court proceedings in SLO


Updating the Local Rules of Court - progress

Accessing Court Files - reminder

The Budget- MC fees, and Continuances

Your submitted questions

Plan for today:



Time Permitting

4

Remote Court Proceedings – Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

Family Code § 6308. Remote appearance of party, support person, and witness; development and publication of local rules

A party, support person as defined in Section 6303, or witness may appear remotely at the hearing on a petition for a domestic violence restraining order.

The superior court of each county shall develop local rules and instructions for remote appearances permitted under this section, which shall be posted on its internet website.

5

Remote Court Proceeding Procedures in SLO County:

	SLO-7	SLO-11	Paso-1
DV Hearings per CIV 2027	Yes, but only as to parties, their witnesses and their support people. They must request this in advance (but this is relaxed if our County has not created a DV specific request yet as required by the code. This is not available to attorneys per the language of the code.	Yes, for parties, counsel, witnesses, and all other court participants.	Yes, for parties, witnesses, and support people. Counsel may request in advance.
Trial Setting Conferences, Trial Readiness Conferences	Yes. These calendars are specifically designed for Zoom court appearances and are set at 8:30 am. Starting June 1, 2024, all TSC, TR, and any other Zoom court appearance will be on the Monday 8:30 am calendar (TR) designed for the first Monday of the month when we have the TSCS conflict.	Yes. These calendars are specifically designed for Zoom court appearances and are set at 1:30 pm on Wednesday afternoons.	PT's TSC/Readiness calendars (first at 8:30 a.m.) are the only Zoom-designated calendars.
RFO Calendars, Long-Cause Hearings, Trials	No, unless there has been an ACR or general request made (an ELO) and was granted before your appearance.	No, unless there has been prior approval by the Court, either through written request and order or by pre-authorization.	COVID-19 and RFO calendars are still in effect. However, PT's may allow attorneys (primarily in-court counsel) to appear via Zoom with prior approval. P-1 is transitioning to live appearances presently.
Witnesses	Yes, for witnesses that are out of the area more than an hour drive away depending on.	Yes, for witnesses that are out of the area more than an hour drive away depending on.	Yes, for witnesses that are out of the area more than an hour drive away depending on.

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Search Case Information and Court Documents Across California Counties

Search across multiple California counties at once.

This includes confidential cases if you are attorney of record or MC.

10

But it has its limitations...

- We are the only county in the state on this platform. So, you can't pull cases from other counties (yet.)
- The next county anticipated to go live is Mendocino.
- There is a fee for this service.
- For any attorney not currently registered in Efile, it is important to register with the email address listed on the state bar website associated with his/her bar number

11


The Budget Act of 2024

\$97,000,000.00 reduction in funding to the trial courts.

12

The Budget Act of 2024 –
\$97,000,000.00 REDUCTION IN FUNDS TO TRIAL COURTS.

- We are taking a very close look at spending.
- All departments are doing their part to cut back and protect vital programs and maintain the same level of service to the public.
- This will require a change in the way we do things.




13

The Budget Act of 2024


- It costs this court \$50.00 per continuance
- 28,385 continuances last year over all courtrooms
- This represents 28% of our total hearings scheduled.
- Total: \$1,419,250.00 cost to the court.

We will be cutting back on continuances unless a party is statutorily entitled to one, or there is good cause.



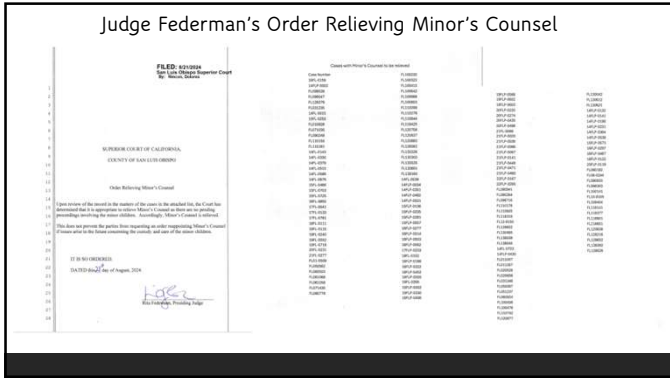
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MINOR'S
COUNSEL



\$\$\$	Since COVID, our county has tripled the amount spent on MC. This cannot continue.
???	Judge Federman and the FL Dept. have met with Court Admin to analyze our MC appointments/payments/and costs and have considered the following:
1.	Capping court-pay MC at \$2500.00 with the ability to increase spending for good cause.
2.	Any appointments where payment of MC is not clearly defined will be placed on calendar for a determination and order regarding payment.
3.	Relieving all MC's on cases where there is nothing coming up on calendar.
4.	Consider the circumstances in allocating the drafting of the FOAH's to the parties rather than to MC

15



16

Parties to draft the FOAH's instead of MC.

This is a GREAT video that clearly explains how to prepare and file a FOAH.

SELF-HELP CENTER
FINDINGS AND ORDER AFTER HEARING

- ✓ Step-by-step instructions
- ✓ Links to forms
- ✓ Instructional video

Scan the QR code for instructions!

You can also scan the QR code below to schedule a telephone appointment with the Self-Help Center to review your forms.

17



18

Question: "There is no charge for certified copies of a TRO and related Notice of hearing. Why aren't certified copies filed in/available in Odyssey? The police will not enforce a TRO without the certification and often the TRO (currently without certification) shows up in odyssey before the certified copies are sent to the filer's email address."

Answer: The certified copies are immediately provided to the party/attorney. The court keeps the certified copies as confidential, so non-parties don't get a copy of the certified copy.



19

Question: "What is the process for getting TRO's into the CLETS system? If a TRO is returned late in the day, it appears it may not get to CLETS, which has caused hesitation on the part of law enforcement to enforce the orders."

Answer: "If the order is signed late in the day, we always upload to CCPOR before the end of the day. Each agency is responsible for uploading Restraining Orders into CARPOS for their jurisdiction. We do not know what time the law enforcement agency stops processing."



20

Question: "Are there specific clerks that handle the restraining orders or is it whoever is there that day, who may or may not be trained? Has the staff in the clerk's offices in Paso and SLO been reduced?"

Answer: "Each branch has designated clerks and back-ups. It's a tedious/meticulous process which has to be done in a fast-paced and intense environment. We have lost a lot of seasoned clerks and training is always taking place. All restraining order requests are always given priority above other pressing duties."

Yes, due to State budget cuts we have the following staff reductions:
SLO - Civil 3 LPC vacancies & 1 Family Law Courtroom Clerk;
PASO - 2 LPC vacancies & 2 Leave of Absences.

We appreciate your patience. Additional information on our website at phone-hours-press-release-slo-20240815.pdf (ca.gov)



21

Question: "The turnaround on Requests for DVRO and TRO's has slowed. Three times recently a DVRO requests turned in late one day does not come back until late in the day the next day."

Answer: "If the request is received after 2:00 PM, it goes to the Judge/Commissioner the next day. This change was made in 2023 and is consistent with other courts and permissible under relevant code sections. Also, in San Luis all DV TROs are held until 3:00 to send to the Bench Officers. If a TRO is received after 2:00 on Monday, it will not be sent to a San Luis Bench Officer until 3:00 on Tuesday."



22

Question: "At the end of a case where Minor's Counsel is being compensated at the court rate, why isn't there some discussion of the total amount paid to MC and an order imposed for repayment of those fees even if set at low installment rates if there is some ability to pay? It seems like there are some parents that could afford to repay the court at some level; and these repayments could then be used to replenish the fund used for future MC appointments. "

Answer: Great Question. We have discussed repayment of fees for minor's counsel at the end of the case, or if there is a dissolution and assets will be sold, such as a house, that would free up funds to reimburse the court for MC fees.

We are speaking with other courts around the state who do this to see how effective it is. Stay tuned.



23

Question: "What is the Court and its judicial officers doing, if anything, to address/streamline high-conflict custody disputes? Would the Court entertain a special track for such cases due to the toll they take on the parties' and the Court's time and resources?"

Answer: The best we can to move the case forward per the law. We cannot create a special track for high-conflict cases as that would be unfair to other cases. However, we do encourage mediation, the use of minor's counsel when appropriate, high-conflict co-parenting class, counseling, or even parallel parenting orders to reduce conflict and mitigate the toll on these families.



24

Wi-Fi network: SLO-GUEST (all caps)
 Password: whyR1ess (wireless)

Don't worry.
We Got You!

Reminder

The Wi-Fi connection is HORRIBLE in the courthouse!

25

Q & A:
Judge Childs
moderating

PLEASE, NO CASE-SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS.

26

Thank you for being here today!

Now go forth and be awesome.

27
