

Family Court Plan to Reduce # of People in the Courthouse
Effective 11/23/20 and to remain in effect until further notice.

	Reducing the # of people in the courthouse
Custody	Custody matters continue to be heard by the assigned judge with hearings being held in the Courthouse. Hearings are limited to one hearing per day per judge. Most, if not all witnesses will be participating by video/telephone.
Family Business Court	Family Business Court matters remain by appointment only. Presentations will be virtual if all parties have attorneys. Presentations with one or more pro se individuals will be addressed in person unless approved otherwise by the Court. Please contact chambers to obtain an appointment prior to serving and filing your documents with the Prothonotary's Office or the Domestic Relations Office. All paperwork must be filed prior to your presentation.
Juvenile Probation	Most proceedings continue to be held live at the Courthouse with social distancing protocols in place and only essential personnel allowed in the courtroom. Conferences for placement reviews and youth in detention in most cases continue to be by video.
Domestic Relations	Beginning 11/23/20, Support Contempt Sessions will start at 2:30 with reduced list sizes. Beginning 12/14/20, Support Appeal lists will begin staggered start times with one case being scheduled every 45 mins for a total of 4 appeal hearing in each half day session. December Paternity hearings remain scheduled as is.
Divorce	The majority of divorce matters continue to be addressed virtually as needed. In person hearings are being scheduled on a case by case basis.
PFA Petitions	PFA Petition hearings continue to be held by Lifesize at 3pm daily by the assigned Family Business Court Judge.
CCOs/Divorce Masters	Custody conferences continue to be conducted by Lifesize. Divorce Master telephonic and pre-trial conferences remain by video/telephone. Master hearings will continue to proceed in the Courthouse but will be limited to one case with one divorce master at any given time.
PFA's	Hearings remain in person with staggered list start times of 8:30, 9:30, 1:00 and 2:00. Lists will now be reduced to 8 in the first session and 4 in the second session for a total of 12 in the AM and 12 in the PM. There will be 2 one half day overflow sessions per month, to be presided over by a judge TBD.

***Masks are required for entry into the Courthouse. Only parties shall attend unless the assigned judge approves additional witnesses.**

****In the event of a closure, matters will continue to be addressed virtually when appropriate and in accordance with any future Administrative Orders.**