**FAMILY COURT PLAN AS OF MAY 18, 2020—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

All judges shall continue to conduct court hearings remotely.

All court hearings will be on the record and will use the WebEx app.

Currently the Family Court is conducting the following types of hearings:

**Abuse and Neglect**

* Neglect initial hearings.
* Emergency hearings.
* Disposition hearings.
* Any hearings where the parties consent to the outcome.
* Pretrial and status hearings where necessary.
* Stipulated trials, one day trials of any type, including TaL hearings lasting one day or less.

**Domestic Relations**:

* Divorces, separations, custody, child support where the parties represent the case is uncontested or has been settled.
* Domestic relations same day emergency hearings.
* Emergency motions to modify custody or for contempt where same day emergency hearing was denied but the Court is willing to hear the motion on an expedited basis.
* Discretionary matters, such as resolving discovery issues or scheduling a hearing on any matter the Court deems important.

**Juvenile Delinquency, Persons in Need of Supervision, and Private Adoptions:**

* Juvenile initial hearings, including probable cause hearings.
* Any other hearings (e.g. emergency hearings, status hearings, disposition hearings) based upon the judge’s determination that holding a hearing would be beneficial toward resolving the case or will result in a change in the level of detention of a juvenile; this applies to HOPE and Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program (JPDP) courts, as well.
* Trials of detained juveniles when possible.
* Private adoptions when possible.

**Mental Health:**

* Mental health probable cause hearings.
* Mental Health Commission hearings.
* Revocation hearings, status hearings where needed, emergency hearings, and trials where feasible.

**Mental Habilitation:**

* Mental habilitation review and emergency hearings when all parties can access the court via WebEx.

**Name Changes:**

* Uncontested requests, when known.
* Emergency requests.

**Parentage and Support Cases:**

* The Family Court is currently discussing options to resume hearing these cases where needed and resolving those on paper where possible.
* DNA testing is currently unavailable.

**Marriages:**

* Marriages have resumed and are being conducted via WebEx. If you wish to apply for a marriage license, please see: <https://www.dccourts.gov/form/marriage-application>

**Other Relevant Information:**

* The process for filing new domestic relations complaints or petitions in Family Court is laid out in detail on the Court’s website, see: <https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/DRB-Case-Initiation-Instructions-for-filers.pdf>.
* The Self-Help Center (202-879-0096) is operating on a remote basis to provide information and to assist parties in filing documents in Family Court cases (divorce, child custody, child support, etc.).
* The Court will issue summonses electronically and will email them to the filer.
* Domestic Relations Initial Hearings will not be scheduled at the time of filing; they will be scheduled once a default is entered or a responsive pleading is filed, and depending on the judges’ availability.
* The Supervised Visitation Center is currently closed until further notice.
* Multi-door mediation and intake for mediation is available for parties able to participate in remote mediation either through video-conferencing or telephonically.