



## Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino

# PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2013

### NEW CALENDARING SYSTEM FOR FAMILY LAW FILINGS WITH CUSTODY AND VISITATION ISSUES

Effective October 28, 2013, San Bernardino County Superior Court will implement a new case calendaring system for family law cases that involve custody and visitation disputes. It involves a new model for calendaring Request for Order (RFO) filings with custody or visitation issues and provides litigants who do not have court orders priority access to a court hearing and mediation services.

The new calendaring system will assist families in crisis by providing litigants that do not have custody or visitation orders with an expedited court hearing and mediation appointment. Currently, litigants must wait approximately 75-100 days to get a hearing and mediation services. The new calendaring system will provide a court hearing and mediation within 45 days from filing for cases that do not have court orders.

Family law litigants that have court orders and are seeking a modification of the order currently wait 75-100 days for a hearing and mediation appointment. The new system provides litigants an expedited court hearing approximately 30 days from filing. At the hearing, judicial officers will assess the need for mediation services based on the information presented at the hearing. If mediation is not required, there will be a reduction in the number of referrals for mediation and also a reduction in the wait time to get a mediation appointment. The goal is to reduce the wait time to 60 days for litigants seeking a modification of an existing order.

The new calendaring system will allow the Court to better utilize its resources by confirming proof of service, ensuring parties appear at hearing, only referring cases that require mediation and by confirming compliance with prior court orders before referring parties for mediation services.

The new calendaring system is a result of a business process reengineering effort that is part of San Bernardino Superior Courts larger Public Access to Justice Initiative to increase public access to justice to the residents of San Bernardino County.

This notice has been posted on the Court's website at [www.sb-court.org](http://www.sb-court.org).

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