



New York City Family Court
Additional Guidelines for Practitioners in Virtual Courtrooms
May 13, 2020

VIRTUAL COUNTY COURTROOMS FOR SETTLEMENTS AND BRIEF HEARINGS

In addition to the five citywide virtual courtrooms that are currently operating, county-specific virtual courtrooms will open as of May 18, 2020, one in each county, to address applications in pending cases in that county that can be resolved with a brief virtual appearance. The primary functions of the virtual county courtrooms will be

1. to resolve cases in which the jurist deems it necessary to conduct an allocution by Skype or teleconference,
2. in cases involving a youth in detention, to dispose of the case on consent or where only limited testimony is necessary on a discrete issue, and
3. to take limited testimony in emergency hearings being handled by motion on submission where a jurist deems it necessary.

Procedure in the Virtual County Courtrooms

Calendars will consist of 7 sessions daily, beginning at 9 a.m.

Kings and **Bronx** Counties will be in session **Mondays through Fridays**.

Queens and **New York** Counties will be in session on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**.

Richmond County will be in session on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

Jurists will contact counsel to select a date and time to appear in the virtual county courtroom. All appearances must adhere strictly to the time certain beginning and time certain ending of the court session.

CUSTODY & VISITATION MEDIATION

Custody and visitation mediation will commence on May 15th in all counties. Referrals for mediation will be initiated by jurists from their virtual chambers after screening for domestic violence and any active child protective proceedings. Jurists will set an adjourn date.

Mediators from the NYC Family Court roster as well as those from the Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRC) will conduct the virtual mediation sessions. The mediators will reach

out to the parties and counsel (if any) to schedule the virtual mediation sessions once they receive notice of the referral. The mediator will email a status report to the jurist. The mediator will email a proposed parenting agreement to the jurist in two formats: one with the parties' electronic signatures (if possible) and the other without signatures. The jurist will allocate the parties on the agreement or set a further date.

CHILD SUPPORT

The court is accepting support modification petitions, motions and requests by email at NYFCSupport@nycourts.gov or by U.S. mail addressed to the appropriate county Family Court, or by telephoning a court clerk at 646-386-5299 for assistance. The date of contact with the court and postmark will be recorded. No conferences or hearings will be scheduled on these cases at this time.