

**San Luis Obispo County Superior Court  
Family Law Department  
Announcement Regarding Trial Management through April 2023**

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The Family Law Team is implementing the following plan to best manage cases after the change in bench officers:

1. **Vacating Existing Trials/Evidentiary Hearings:** Most of the cases set for trial or an evidentiary hearing in all Family Law Departments through April 2023 are being vacated and reset for Trial Setting Conferences (TSC'S), as described below. **Note that for D11 cases, all ongoing trials and evidentiary hearings (where the trial or evidentiary hearing has already begun) and any DVPA trials will remain unchanged and on calendar. New, incoming DVPA contested hearings from either D11 or D4 will not be delayed and will be set as they arise due to their statutory priority. As to Judge Peron's existing cases where the evidentiary hearing or trial has begun, those matters will be given priority to try and complete them before December 30, 2022.**
  
2. **TSC Dates:** All vacated trials and evidentiary hearings will be reset for Trial Setting Conferences (TSC's) on the following dates:  
**Department 7 (Childs):** January 10, 2023, and January 12, 2023, both at 9:00 AM.  
**Department 11 (McDaniel):** January 17 & January 18, 2023, at 1:30 PM, and January 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM.  
**Department P1 (Guerrero):** January 4, 2023, and January 11, 2023, both at 9:00 AM.

The judicial officers will review each case to determine priority, categorizing them as "high," "medium" or "low" priority. **Among each level of priority, the court may give greater preference to those RFO's where counsel/parties complied with C.R.C. Section 5.98 (see attached) and to those trials where the parties have met and conferred, exchanged exhibits and witness lists, and discussed stipulating to exhibits/evidence, and resolving issues.**

**\*\*\*If your trial is a high priority matter, please be prepared to commence your trial or evidentiary hearing as early as the third week of January 2023\*\*\***

**3. Trial Priority:**

1. Contempt Proceedings
2. DVPA with custody
3. DVPA
4. Child custody/CCP §36 cases (parties over 70 years of age)
5. Child Support
6. Spousal Support
7. Fee Issues
8. Property issues

Attorneys and litigants are encouraged to attend these TSC's by Zoom but are welcome to attend in person.

4. **Reassignment of Cases:** Some cases will be reassigned due to the change in bench officers. Most reassignments, other than DCSS matters, will be done during the last week of December and notices will go out shortly thereafter; however, some January matters will be provided with oral notices of reassignment.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transition.

Gayle Peron  
Supervising Family Law Judge

# 2022 California Rules of Court

## **Rule 5.98. Meet-and-confer requirements; document exchange**

### **(a) Meet and confer**

All parties and all attorneys are required to meet and confer in person, by telephone, or as ordered by the court, before the date of the hearing relating to a *Request for Order* (FL-300). During this time, parties must discuss and make a good faith attempt to settle all issues, even if a complete settlement is not possible and only conditional agreements are made. The requirement to meet and confer does not apply to cases involving domestic violence.

### **(b) Document exchange**

Before or while conferring, parties must exchange all documentary evidence that is to be relied on for proof of any material fact at the hearing. At the hearing, the court may decline to consider documents that were not given to the other party before the hearing as required under this rule. The requirement to exchange documents does not relate to documents that are submitted primarily for rebuttal or impeachment purposes.

*Rule 5.98 adopted effective January 1, 2013.*

*Title 5, Family and Juvenile Rules-Division 1, Family Rules-Chapter 6, Request for Court Orders-Article 4, Evidence at Hearings; adopted January 1, 2013.*