



Under the current Thirty-Sixth Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster (Misc. Docket No, 21-9026) and Executive Order GA34, in-person proceedings may resume.

What does the bar need to know about the family law division?

- 1) All docket calls will remain virtual until further notice. Not all courts hold docket calls, but those that do with continue to hold their docket calls virtually.
- 2) In-person proceedings in the family courts will be set one at a time as preferential settings and as scheduled by the individual courts. Not all courts will begin holding in-person hearings immediately. The decision of when to begin is up to each individual court. Please check with your specific court to determine if in-person hearings are being held.
- 3) Prior to the scheduling of an in-person proceeding, attorneys and pro se parties must provide the court coordinator the number of individuals, including support staff, they desire to bring in-person. The court will review the request and coordinate with the other courts on the same floor. In addition, courts may request information concerning exposure to or symptoms of COVID-19, as required under the Thirty-Sixth Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster.
- 4) Each court will ensure compliance with the capacity limits set by the fire marshal and the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Harris County District Courts, County Courts at Law & Probate Courts, implemented May 21, 2020. All courts will continue to comply with the social distancing and safety protocols set out in the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Harris County District Courts, County Courts at Law & Probate Courts.
- 5) If the in-person proceeding is a jury trial, the court shall comply with the Jury Proceeding Addendum to COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Harris County Judiciary.

District Court Administration shall post this policy on [www.justex.net](http://www.justex.net)

Signed on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021

/s/ Julia A. Maldonado

Julia A. Maldonado

Administrative Judge – Family Division

Harris County Family District Courts