SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

News Release
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Family Law Case Manager Pilot to Support Litigants Sees Encouraging Increases in Case Participation Rates and Resolution

Family Law Case Managers Are Assigned to the Stanley Mosk, Whittier and Chatsworth Courthouses

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The Superior Court of Los Angeles County has launched a new Family Law Case Manager Pilot Program designed to increase litigants' meaningful participation in and effective resolution of their cases by providing personalized review and procedural information to litigants at various stages in the dissolution (divorce) life cycle. Since the pilot's launch in May 2026, participation rates of litigants who are in mediation with Family Law Case Managers (FLCMs) have increased to 78%, up from an average participation rate of 25% for cases without FLCM support.

As part of the pilot, three Family Law Case Managers have been allocated to divorce matters assigned to judicial officers at the Stanley Mosk, Whittier and Chatsworth courthouses. The FLCMs were assigned a random initial inventory of 100 cases from each judicial officer: 50 divorce matters with children, and 50 divorce cases without children. Additionally, FLCMs continue to receive half of the divorce filings at regular intervals to ensure an active and robust caseload.

To support litigants, case managers:

- Closely review assigned cases and determine clear next procedural steps for moving the case forward by providing additional one-on-one review and procedural information to litigants.
- Remind litigants of their mediation appointments.
- Verify that litigants are complying with requirements, such as mandatory mediation orientation for separating parents who have a dispute over child custody or visitation.

"The Family Law Case Manager Pilot Program equips litigants with the tailored guidance they need to navigate the Court, complete their paperwork, and satisfy the requirements to resolve their matters," said Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II. "The pilot reflects the Court's commitment to innovation, making strategic, targeted investments in new approaches that empower litigants and keep cases moving through the system."

Preliminary Trends Indicate Increased Participation

Since the pilot's launch in May 2026, preliminary results show higher participation rates, including higher attendance at mediation sessions, higher resolution rates at mediation, and higher submission rates of defaults and judgments, when appropriate. When FLCMs find that a default or judgment has been rejected, they will reach out to the litigant or their attorney to provide a detailed explanation for the rejection and how to move forward. The pilot proves particularly helpful in the Family Law space, where, according to a report by the National Center for State Courts, up to 81% of litigants in 2024 were self-represented.

The Court has also developed a referral sheet to provide litigants with up-to-date information on their case status, including the steps and links to forms that need to be completed, with direct contact numbers for their assigned case manager. As the Court's staff provide support in reminding litigants of their deadlines and verifying their forms, the results show more meaningful engagement, which is also in alignment with the Court's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan to enhance accessibility and transform the court user experience.

Pilot Expansion

The Court continues to track the pilot's success to place at least one FLCM in every courthouse hearing Family Law matters, ensuring equitable access to case resolution. The Court will communicate future program developments.

About the Superior Court of Los Angeles County

The largest trial court in the nation, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County serves a population of almost 10 million in 36 courthouses with a jurisdiction covering over 4,000 square miles that includes 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas, and dozens of law enforcement agencies. The Court is steadfast in its mission to serve our community by providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely, and effective resolution of all cases.

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