Rule 701.1 Family Centered Case Resolution Process

California Rule of Court 5.83 establishes processes and procedures for courts to manage cases from initial filing to final disposition in an effective and timely manner. The rule establishes goals for the final disposition of family law cases as follows:

- 1) At least 20 percent are disposed within 6 months from the date the petition was filed;
- 2) At least 75 percent are disposed within 12 months from the date the petition was filed; and
- 3) At least 90 percent are disposed within 18 months from the date the petition was filed.

It is the intent of the Superior Court of Orange County to implement case management procedures that focus on efficient processing of the case including early resolution of the issues, settlement opportunities, and the reduction of the cost of litigation. The Court has also taken into consideration the uniqueness of each family law case and the many cases that do not require judicial involvement in order to reach resolution.

A. The Court has adopted a case resolution process with multiple components each with its own specific standards and processing procedures. The purpose of each component is to ensure judicial resources are used strategically, to give those cases that need judicial attention that opportunity and to use all scheduled hearings as an occasion to bring the case closer to resolution.

1. Case Review

Cases will be electronically reviewed to determine if they are meeting procedural milestones set forth below. Cases that do not meet the milestones will receive notice to appear at a Procedural Assistance Conference, a Status Conference, or a Family Centered Case Resolution Conference, depending upon the progress of the case.

At a Status or Family Centered Case Resolution Conference, a case may be assigned to a judicial officer for all purposes including ongoing monitoring.

- (a) The goal of the Family Centered Case Resolution process is to finalize dispositions as set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.83.
- (b) Processes and procedures to manage cases from initial filing to disposition shall be established in accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 5.83, Family Code section 2450(a) and Standards of Judicial Administration, standard 5.30. In addition to maintaining processes and procedures in the normal course of business, Family Centered Case Resolution processes will be posted on the Court public website.
- (c) Cases involving self-represented litigants will be referred to the Self-Help Center to assist in complying with the Family Centered Case Resolution process. Written material as required by California Rules of Court, rule 5.83(g) will be provided by the Clerk upon filing of first papers in actions under the Family Code.