

## FRANKLIN PROTOCOLS EFFECTIVE JULY 12, 2021

In response to Standing Order 2-21, the Franklin Division has adopted the following protocols.

### Trials and evidentiary hearings

Trials and evidentiary hearings will primarily be conducted in person, unless specifically authorized to be by Zoom. Any request for a virtual hearing or to permit a witness to testify remotely must be raised prior to the trial or hearing date (by motion, or by discussion at a Pre-Trial or Status Conference).

### Abuse Prevention hearings

209A hearings will be in person or by Zoom as specified in the last order; however, if there is no type of hearing specified, the parties need to appear **in person**.

### Pre-Trial Conferences

Per the standing order, if notice has already gone out scheduling a matter for a virtual hearing, the matter will still be held virtually unless ordered otherwise. In this division, all Pre-Trial Conferences will take place by Zoom **through the month of September** (if both parties are not represented by counsel, the matter begins with a dispute intervention with probation, conducted by telephone). The order scheduling the matter for a Pre-Trial Conference should indicate that it will be held remotely.

**Beginning October 1, 2021** all Pre-Trial Conferences will be in person (unless ordered in writing to be by Zoom).

### Case Management Conferences

CMCs will remain remote. The JCM and AJCM conduct CMCs by phone using the court's conference line or by Zoom. Probation conducts CMCs by phone by placing calls to parties. Parties will receive a scheduling order telling them how to participate in their CMC.

### Motions

We expect that motion sessions will be in-person commencing **August 1, 2021** (contingent on the ability of the probation department to conduct in-person dispute interventions).

### Contempts

Beginning with the contempt session scheduled on **August 18, 2021**, contempts will be held in person and litigants and counsel will be required to appear at court for the hearing.

The one exception to this policy is that when contempt hearings are scheduled on a motion day (which may happen if we have no contempt day in a particular month), the motion policy governs (so if motions remain remote, that particular contempt hearing will be remote).

### Uncontested divorces

These hearings will largely remain remote. The scheduling order will specify a remote or in-person hearing.

### DOR session

For the time being this session will remain remote. DOR provides notice to litigants with Zoom information.

### Uncontested conservatorship and adult guardianship hearings

These hearings will remain remote for the time being and will typically be scheduled on Thursday afternoons. Scheduling of these matters should continue to be done through the Judicial Case Manager or Assistant Judicial Case Manager.