

Rule 701. Assignment of Family Law Cases

All Family Law cases heard by the Family Law Panel will be randomly assigned to a Family Law Panel judge or commissioner for all purposes:

A. For any Family Law case(s) not already assigned to a judge or commissioner for all purposes, the party that files the first document requesting an initial court hearing must include the Family Law Coversheet for Assignment to Orange County Justice Center (L-0560) with the request. The assignment to a judge or commissioner will be determined by the residence of the filing party as indicated on the coversheet.

1. Exceptions; Do not file in the following cases:

- a) Domestic Violence Prevention Service Project cases
- b) Self-Represented Party (SRP) calendared cases
- c) Cases scheduled for a Default Prove Up hearing
- d) Cases initiated by the Department of Child Support Services
- e) Proceedings for Freedom from Parental Custody and Control
- f) Adoption cases
- g) Cases specifically assigned at the discretion of the Family Law Supervising Judge

B. The assigned judicial officer will handle all proceedings in the case, including but not limited to, requests for orders, orders to show cause, law and motion matters, pretrial conferences, and trial.

C. After assignment to one judicial officer for all purposes, all pleadings must have clearly typed on the face page of each pleading, directly under the case number, the following:

1. Department (insert number)
2. Judicial Officer (insert name)

D. When the random assignment is to a commissioner for all purposes, the parties may accept the assignment by filing optional local form L-200 (Stipulation for Court Commissioner to Act as Temporary Judge for All Purposes) form entitled Assignment of Commissioner as Temporary Judge (local mandatory form L-200) will be given to the petitioner/moving party who must serve this form on the respondent/opposing party. Both parties must file the form in the assigned department indicating acceptance or declination of the assignment of the commissioner for all purposes. If either party declines, the case will be randomly assigned to another judicial officer.

Rule 701 revised effective January 1, 2022~~revised effective January 1, 2020~~; Adopted effective July 1, 1984; revised effective January 1, 1987; revised effective July 1, 1994; revised effective October 1, 1996; revised effective January 1, 2002; revised effective August 1, 2004; revised effective January 1, 2007; revised effective July 1, 2011; amended effective July 1, 2014; revised effective January 1, 2020.