



Yakima County Superior Court: Seeking a Court Order in your Family Law case during COVID-19

Yakima County Superior Court has temporarily changed how you can present your family law case to the court. We expect still more changes to come.

Currently, the court only allows consideration of family law (divorce, parenting plan, parentage, and non-parent custody) requests in limited situations.

- **The court will hold by phone** all emergency hearings currently scheduled for hearing, or all emergency matters that arise before April 24, 2020. See Exemplar 2 attached. **The court defines an emergency as a situation that clearly appears from your affidavit or verified complaint will cause immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage.**
- If you believe your motion is an emergency, you must get a court order to schedule the hearing by submitting a motion and declaration through the ex-parte process. Contact the clerk to ask how to do this.
- If the court approves the request, **you must confirm your hearing:** call or email the Clerk's office by 10:00 AM two court days before the scheduled hearing date to tell them that the hearing is still happening. You can call the clerk at (509) 574-2959 or email them at domestic.motion@co.yakima.wa.us.
- Family law ex-parte matters will be handled in chambers (the judge's offices). You can submit proposed orders to the Clerk's office. You should attach a cover sheet to each order. See Ex-Parte Cover Sheet: Exemplar 1 attached.
- If you have an open case (have already filed a summons and petition), follow these instructions:
 - Fill out your emergency motion (forms and instructions below):
 - Divorce** - www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/filing-a-motion-for-emergency-orders-for-diss
 - Unmarried with children in common** (no final parenting plan) - www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/filing-a-motion-for-emergency-orders-for-pare

Non-parent custody - www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/filing-a-motion-for-emergency-orders-in-a-non

After a final parenting plan (divorce, non-parent custody, or unmarried with children in common) -

www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/ask-for-immediate-restraining-orders-petition-to-change-parenting-plan-cases

- Contact information for each judicial department is at https://www.courts.wa.gov/court_dir/orgs/254.html.

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