



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

ATTACHMENT FM-1196

NOTICE:

MANDATORY PRE-HEARING MEET AND CONFER REQUIREMENT

LOCAL FAMILY RULE 1(M)

The Santa Clara County Superior Court encourages parties to try to settle their family law disputes as an alternative to litigation. Settling issues by mutual agreement will make you feel better about the outcome of your case, reduce your stress and anxiety, and save you time and legal fees.

In view of social distancing and other precautions taken on account of COVID-19, the Court has implemented a rule to facilitate these discussions in a manner that does not put the parties at risk. This means that meet and confer discussions must take place outside of the courthouse before the hearing date.

➤ **THE RULE**

When both parties are self-represented and a Request for Order or other moving papers have been filed, the moving party must serve a copy of this notice on the other party at the same time the moving papers are served. After service is completed, each party must contact the Self Help Center no later than 14 calendar days before the hearing to schedule a facilitated pre-hearing meet and confer session.

You can contact the Self Help Center in two ways:

- By telephone at (408) 882-2926, or
- By email at meetandconfer1@scscourt.org

➤ **EXCEPTIONS: This rule does not apply in the following situations:**

- **THE COURT SHORTENED THE TIME FOR NOTICE:** If the Court has shortened the time for the moving party to provide notice to the other party before a hearing, the rule does not apply.
- **DVPA HEARINGS:** When both parties are self-represented and the moving papers request a Domestic Violence Restraining Order, the rule does not apply.
- **EXISTING NO-CONTACT RESTRAINING ORDERS:** When both parties are self-represented and there are restraining orders prohibiting contact, the rule does not apply.

➤ **FAILURE TO MEET AND CONFER**

If the meet and confer does not occur before the hearing, the Court may continue the hearing and order the parties to comply with the rule.