

## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

### ADVISORY ON FAMILY MATTERS

In light of public health concerns arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Maine's Judicial Branch is taking steps to adhere to the guidance provided by the Maine and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC").

Pursuant to an emergency order issued by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on March 13, 2020 (revised April 14, 2020), all proceedings in family cases either were prohibited or continued. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court now has authorized certain proceedings in family matters cases to be scheduled and heard. However, these authorized proceedings must be held **by telephone or video conference** to practice social distancing and fight community spread consistent with federal and state CDC guidance.

A proceeding in your case has been rescheduled to the date and time stated in the scheduling notice that came with this advisory. You must tell the court in writing if you are unable to participate in this proceeding and the reason why you are unable to do so. You must also provide a copy of your written response to the other party or, if the party is represented by an attorney, to the attorney. It is your responsibility to be sure that the District Court has your correct address. Any change of address must be in writing and delivered to the Clerk's office by hand or regular mail.

**Do not come to the courthouse! Follow the directions on the scheduling notice to call/connect with the court at the date and time specified.**

You should file a new child support affidavit if your income has changed or you have not yet filed a child support affidavit. The form may be found on-line at [https://www.courts.maine.gov/fees\\_forms/forms/forms/index.shtml#fm](https://www.courts.maine.gov/fees_forms/forms/index.shtml#fm).

**ADA Notice:** The Maine Judicial Branch complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation contact the Court Access Coordinator, [accessibility@courts.maine.gov](mailto:accessibility@courts.maine.gov), or a court clerk.

**Language Services:** For language assistance and interpreters, contact a court clerk or [interpreters@courts.maine.gov](mailto:interpreters@courts.maine.gov).