SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Notice to Attorneys
MediaAffairs@lacourt.ca.gov

Superior Court of Los Angeles County Establishes Child Custody Recommending Counseling Pilot Program

Pilot Program Aims to Promote the Best Interests of Children by Reducing the Impact of Prolonged Litigation and Improving Judicial Efficiency

Aug. 25, 2026

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County today announced the issuance of General Order 2026-GEN-011-00, establishing a Child Custody Recommending Counseling (CCRC) pilot program for certain contested child custody and visitation matters in dissolution cases.

Beginning Aug. 25, 2026, the pilot program will apply to initial Requests for Orders (RFOs) seeking child custody and/or visitation orders filed on or after that date in dissolution actions filed in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in the Court's Central District. Recognizing the impact of high-conflict custody disputes on children, families, and judicial resources, the pilot program is intended to promote the best interests of children, encourage parental agreement and cooperative parenting, reduce the impact of prolonged litigation on children, improve judicial efficiency, and allow the Court to evaluate a recommended counseling model compared with its current non-recommending approach.

Under General Order 2026-GEN-011-00:

- Parties will first participate in court-connected confidential mediation with a Family Court Services (FCS) Specialist.
- If mediation does not result in a full agreement regarding custody and visitation, the parties must participate in good faith in a CCRC session with a different FCS Specialist pursuant to Family Code section 3183.
- After interviewing the parents and providing the parties the opportunity to present their positions as to child custody and visitation, the FCS Specialist conducting the CCRC session will provide the Court with a report and recommendation (hereinafter "Report").

General Order 2026-GEN-011-00 establishes procedures governing the CCRC process, including deadlines to ensure matters are heard in a timely manner. The CCRC session should occur at least 10 calendar days before the custody and visitation proceeding, and the Report must be disclosed to the parties, their attorneys, and the Court at least 10 calendar days before the proceeding. Written objections must be served at least five calendar days before the hearing, and objections referencing the report must be filed under seal. Untimely objections are deemed waived.

CCRC Reports are nonconfidential among the FCS Specialist, the Court, the parties, and their attorneys but remain confidential to the public. Improper disclosure may result in monetary

sanctions. The General Order also restricts *ex parte* communications with FCS Specialists other than scheduling matters and establishes procedures for challenges for cause.

Nothing in General Order 2026-GEN-011-00 limits the Court's authority to make orders in the best interests of children. The Court may adopt, modify, or reject recommendations, order evaluations, conduct evidentiary hearings, issue temporary emergency orders, appoint a minor's counsel, or refer parties to additional services.

The Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division and the Administrator of Family Court Services are authorized to establish the administrative procedures necessary to implement the pilot program.

The pilot program supports the Court's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan by advancing its goals of improving access to justice, promoting timely and effective case resolution, and enhancing the Court's use of innovative, evidence-based approaches to serve court users and families better.

About the Superior Court of Los Angeles County

The largest trial court in the nation, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County serves a population of almost 10 million across 36 courthouses with a jurisdiction covering over 4,000 square miles that includes 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas, and dozens of law enforcement agencies. The Court is steadfast in its mission to serve our community by providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely and effective resolution of all cases.

For more information on the Court's current programs and services, follow the Court on X (@LASuperiorCourt), Instagram (@LASuperiorCourt), Threads (@LASuperiorCourt), or visit the Court's website, www.LACourt.ca.gov.