



Managing Children, Families and Elders' Cases in the Time of COVID

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

January 6, 2020 | Version 2

This project was funded by the State Justice Institute to provide immediate communication, collaboration, and tools for the sudden response to needs of courts during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide was designed to provide ready reference to resources for courts managing cases involving Children, Families and Elders.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM, POST-PANDEMIC ADVISORS: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ELDERS

Formed of members of CCJ/COSCA and NACM representatives, this advisory group has overseen the creation of issue briefs and webinars intended to provide guidance to courts on how to safely and strategically recover and resume full court operations and to document COVID-19 adaptations and reengineered court practices and procedures to be replicated during and following the pandemic recovery.

ISSUES INVOLVING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ELDERS OCCASIONED BY THE PANDEMIC

During the pandemic, children, families, and elders have experienced additional trauma and stress, factors that exacerbate many of the issues courts consider in domestic, probate, and juvenile cases. The nature of these cases, particularly when they involve domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, or abuse or exploitation of the elderly, require that courts hear them promptly regardless of the pandemic. Triage and caseflow management techniques are vitally important court management tools for case processing during these difficult times.

The brief [Children, Family and Elders Overview: Addressing Backlog and New Filings](#), describes a number of case management techniques for children, family, and elder case types with links to further resources.

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GUARDIANSHIP

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[Guardianship Cases During Time of Crisis](#)

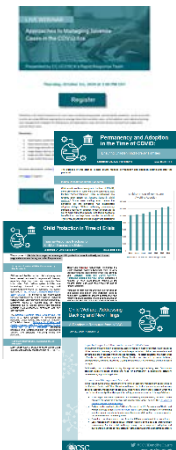
Provides tips and strategies for managing remote, in-person, and hybrid hearings in trauma-responsive ways. This brief addresses the particular challenges of managing remote hearings for those with hearing or vision loss, physical impairments, dementia or a lack of familiarity with technology.

[Guardianships and Conservatorships: Addressing Backlogs and New Filings](#) provides specific tips for effectively monitoring guardianships and conservatorships during the pandemic.

[Court Management of Guardianships and Conservatorships During the Pandemic](#). 9/23 Judge Lauren Holland, Judge Lois Murphy, Mary Galvez (Guardian), and Terry Hammond (attorney) discuss the many challenges of monitoring guardianships and conservatorships when visits are restricted and many hearings are remote. [Follow this link to access webinar materials.](#)

CHILD PROTECTION

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[Child Protection in the Time of Crisis](#) This brief is to help courts manage child protection cases in a timely and trauma-responsive manner during and after the pandemic.

[Child Welfare: Addressing Backlog and New Filings](#) provides specific tips for effectively monitoring child dependency and welfare cases during the pandemic.

[Permanency and Adoption in the Time of Crisis](#) This brief is to help courts manage permanency and adoption during and after the pandemic.

[Approaches to Managing Juvenile Cases in the COVID Era \(10/1/2020\)](#). In this webinar Chief Judge Michelle Dietrich, Fifth Judicial District of Minnesota, Judge Megan McCoy, Mohave County Superior Court, Arizona, Judge Jennifer Staley McCrady, Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Judge Judith Ramseyer, King County Superior Court, Washington discuss promising case management strategies to address the time-sensitive needs of delinquency and dependency cases during the pandemic. [Follow this link to access webinar materials.](#)

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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[Juvenile Justice in the Time of Crisis](#) This brief is to help courts manage delinquency cases in a timely and trauma-responsive manner during and after the pandemic.

[Delinquency: Addressing Backlog and New Filings](#) provides specific tips for effectively monitoring guardianships and conservatorships during the pandemic.

[Approaches to Managing Juvenile Cases in the COVID Era \(10/1/2020\)](#). In this webinar Chief Judge Michelle Dietrich, Fifth Judicial District of Minnesota, Judge Megan McCoy, Mohave County Superior Court, Arizona, Judge Jennifer Staley McCrady, Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Judge Judith Ramseyer, King County Superior Court, Washington discuss promising case management strategies to address the time-sensitive needs of delinquency and dependency cases during the pandemic. [Follow this link to access webinar materials.](#)

DOMESTIC RELATIONS, CUSTODY, VISITATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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[Domestic Relations and Domestic Violence in the Time of Crisis](#) This brief is to help courts manage domestic relations cases in a timely and trauma-responsive manner during and after the pandemic.

[Domestic Relations: Addressing Backlog and New Filings](#) provides specific tips for effectively monitoring Domestic Relations, Parenting-Time, Child Support and Domestic Violence during the pandemic.

[Essential Steps to Tackle Backlog and Prepare for a Surge in New Cases Webinar \(7/17/2020\)](#).

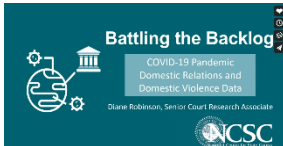
During this webinar, respected state court leaders Judge Jennifer Bailey, Administrative Judge, Civil Division, 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida and Judge Gregory Sakall, Presiding Judge, Superior Court in Pima County, Arizona discuss essential steps to make civil and family case processing more effective, efficient, and fair to litigants. [Follow this link to access webinar materials.](#)

Battling the Backlog : A Library of On-Demand Videos on Preventing Backlog and Addressing New Filings

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[Battling the Backlog: COVID-19 Pandemic Data](#) is the first of three videos talking about filing and disposition data across the country during COVID-19, where Alicia Davis interviews Diane Robinson, Senior Court Research Associate, about a small sample filing and disposition data for 2019 and 2020 that helps illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on court backlogs.



[Battling the Backlog: COVID-19 Pandemic Domestic Relations and Domestic Violence Data](#) In the second of three videos, Alicia Davis interviews Senior Court Research Associate Diane Robinson about the patterns observed for domestic relations and orders of protection data collected through a data request. While it's true that this data shows domestic relations filings are down, dispositions are down even more.



[Battling the Backlog: COVID-19 Pandemic Juvenile Data](#) is the third video in the backlog series, where Diane Robinson talks about how although some family cases resulted in an accumulation during COVID-19, not all case types resulted in the same level of backlog. More urgent cases, like juvenile and dependency cases involving neglect or abuse cases, were prioritized by the courts.



[What Judges Should Know About Virtual Hearings \(Prof. Beth Thornburg, SMU\)](#) In this video, Professor Beth Thornburg of Southern Methodist University will soon publish "[Observing Online Courts: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic](#)" in the ABA's Family Law Quarterly [vol. 54]. Prof. Thornburg's study presents real-time considerations for holding virtual hearings, both the opportunities and the pitfalls.