

**DIVISION V:  
FAMILY LAW**

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL**

**Rule 5.1.1**

**Applicability of Rules**

These rules apply in all departments of the San Diego Superior Court hearing Family Law matters ("Family Law Courts"). All litigants and attorneys must comply with these rules in addition to all applicable statutes and California Rules of Court. Litigants representing themselves without an attorney ("self-represented litigants" or SRL) and all attorneys will be held to the same standards of practice and procedure. All references to "counsel" and/or "attorney" in these rules also apply to the self-represented.

**Sanctions.** For any noncompliance with these rules, the Court may set an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 575.2.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2010)

**Rule 5.1.2**

**The Family Law Courts**

Each of the Family Law courts ("Central" in San Diego, "South County" in Chula Vista, "East County" in El Cajon, and "North County" in Vista) is a separate division and a separate venue. Family Law cases must be filed in the division in which the Petitioner and/or the Respondent reside, or, in paternity cases, where the child resides. Original petitions must be filed in the appropriate division and bear the proper filing location.

A list of filing districts by zip code is available at:

http:

<http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/pls/portal/docs/page/sdcourt/generalinformation/forms/adminforms/adm254.pdf>

The street addresses and telephone numbers for each of the Family Law courts are listed on the court's web site at: [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2009; Rev. 1/1/2010)

**Rule 5.1.3**

**Work of the Family Law Courts**

Matters arising under the Family Code and the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of the Prevention of International Child Abduction are assigned to the Family Law Courts, except adoption, freedom from parental custody, and other matters specifically assigned to other departments by these rules or order of the court. *Marvin* actions must be filed in the Civil Division.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2010)

**Rule 5.1.4**

**Words and Phrases Defined**

Unless the context otherwise requires, these definitions govern the construction of these rules.

"Attorney" and "Counsel" are used interchangeably and synonymously in these rules.

"Child" includes the plural "children" where the context requires.

"Declaration of Disclosure" as defined by Family Code sections 2103, 2104 and 2105.

"Shall" and "must" are mandatory; "will" and "may" are permissive.

"Self-Represented Litigant," "Pro Per," "Pro Se" and "In Propria Persona" mean any litigant or party who is representing himself or herself in a Family Law matter without an attorney of record.

"Writing" is as set forth in Evidence Code section 250.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008)

**Rule 5.1.5**

**Applicable Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations are used throughout these rules:

ADR	=	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CLETS	=	California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
CMC	=	Case Management Conference
DCSS	=	Department of Child Support Services, County of San Diego
DVTRO	=	Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order
EPO	=	Emergency Protective Order
FCS	=	Family Court Services
FSD	=	Family Support Division
MSC	=	Mandatory Settlement Conference

OSC = Order to Show Cause  
PCTJ = Privately Compensated Temporary Judge  
SC = Short Cause Trial  
SRL = Self Represented Litigant  
STC = Status Conference  
TRO = Temporary Restraining Order  
UCCJEA = Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act  
(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2009)

**Rule 5.1.6**

**Requirement for Current Mailing Address**

It is the obligation of all SRLs to keep the court apprised of their current mailing address by promptly filing a Notice of Change of Address (available free of charge in the business office of the court).  
(Adopted 1/1/2010)