

**DIVISION V
FAMILY LAW**

(Preface - Adopted 1/1/2013; Del. 1/1/2014)

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL**

Rule 5.1.0

A. Website Information

1. The San Diego Superior Court's website address is www.sdcourt.ca.gov
2. The "California Courts Web Site" address is www.courtinfo.ca.gov
3. Both web sites contain extensive family law information and detailed self-help instructions.

B. Other Resources. Informational handouts are also available in the court's business office, from the Family Law Facilitator and from Family Court Services.

C. Disclaimer. The San Diego Superior Court does not control or maintain the California Courts Web Site and is not responsible for the accuracy of the information or its content. Additionally, the court's website is updated periodically. When using the San Diego Superior Court's website, the user is subject to its terms of use and privacy policy.

(Adopted 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.1

Application of Rules

A. Applicability of Rules. These rules apply in all departments of the San Diego Superior Court hearing family law matters ("Family Law Courts").

B. Sanctions. Sanctions may be imposed for violation of and/or failure to comply with these local court rules in accordance with the same definitions and procedures set forth in California Rules of Court, rule 5.14.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2010; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.2

Family Law Courts and Venue

A. Proper Venue. For purposes of filing, 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 with the exception of matters involving DCSS. For matters involving DCSS, refer to Chapter 9 of these rules. A list of filing districts by zip code is available online.

B. Marvin Actions. Marvin actions, or any similar family law related action not specifically authorized by the Family Code, must be filed initially as a separate proceeding in the Civil Division.

C. The Family Court does not handle matters of adoption or freedom from parental control.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2009; Rev. 1/1/2010; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.3

Reserved for Future Use

(Del. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.4

Words and Phrases Defined

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

1. "online" means the court's website and/or the California Courts Web Site.
2. "party" includes a self-represented litigant or a person represented by an attorney.
3. "person" is as defined in California Rules of Court, rule 5.14.
4. "self-represented litigant" means any party who is representing himself or herself.
5. "must" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.5

Applicable Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used throughout these rules:

DCSS = Department of Child Support Services, County
of San Diego
FCS = Family Court Services
FRC = Family Case Resolution Conference (when at
least one party is represented by an attorney)

FSD = Family Support Division
MSC = Mandatory Settlement Conference
RFO = Request for Order
SFRC = Self-Represented Family Case Resolution
Conference (when both parties are self-
SRL = represented)
Self-Represented Litigant

(Adopted 1/1/2005; Renum. 1/1/2006; Rev. 1/1/2008; Rev. 1/1/2009; Rev. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.6

Notice to Court and Sanctions

A. Parties must immediately notify the court when circumstances arise that might cause any scheduled proceeding to be continued or taken off calendar; for example, inability to timely serve, a stipulation, or illness. The court may sanction a person who fails to promptly notify the court.

B. Notice to the court may be made on the on-line webform in departments where it is available. In departments without the webform, notice must be given to the courtroom clerk by telephone.
(Adopted 1/1/2014)

Rule 5.1.7

Requirement for Current Mailing Address

It is the obligation of all SRLs and attorneys to keep the court informed of their current mailing address by promptly filing a Notice of Change of Address or Other Contact Information (form MC-040) which is available online or in the business office of the court.

(Adopted 1/1/2010; Rev. & Renum. 1/1/2012; Rev. 1/1/2013)

Rule 5.1.8

Official Court Reporters

A. The Family Law Division of the San Diego Superior Court does not regularly provide for an official court reporter unless required by law.

B. A list of hearings for which the court may provide an official court reporter is posted on the court's website. This list is subject to change without notice.

C. Policies and mandatory procedures on how a party may arrange for a certified court reporter for hearings at which the court does not provide an official court reporter are on the court's website.
(Adopted 1/1/2013; Rev. 1/1/2014)