

**Anna M. Benjamin**  
Associate Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit Court  
Champaign County Courthouse  
101 East Main Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

To: **Attorneys and Litigants in Family Law Cases**

Date: **February 13, 2024**

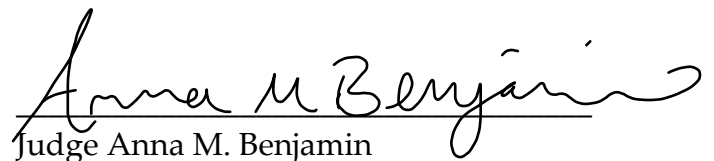
RE: **Family Law Docket and Spanish Interpreter Schedule**

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1. Pursuant to Champaign County Administrative Order 2023-8, effective March 4, 2024, Courtroom H will be shared between two judges, and family law matters before Judge Benjamin will be heard in Courtroom H as follows:
  - a. **Adoptions:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 and 8:45 a.m.;
  - b. **Uncontested call:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m.;
  - c. **Settlement Conferences:** Monday afternoons, in chambers or remotely;
  - d. **Contested call:** Tuesday and Thursday at 1:15 p.m.; and
  - e. **Trials:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30 a.m. – noon;
2. Additional trial dates will be held weekly in Courtrooms C and F, as indicated on a Family Law Pretrial Order entered in each individual case.
3. **Uncontested call:** The types of matters to be set on the uncontested call include status hearings, uncontested grounds hearings, name changes, uncontested ancillary hearings, motions to withdraw, pre-trial hearings, and case management conferences.
4. **Contested call:** The types of matters to be set on the contested call include petitions for temporary relief, petitions for adjudication of indirect civil contempt or abuse of allocated parenting time, discovery motions, and specifically scheduled hearings on orders of protection consolidated with family law cases. Petitions to modify existing judgments may not be set on this call.
5. **Financial Affidavits:** Pursuant to Sixth Circuit Rule 7.1(b) a Financial Affidavit must be filed by the moving party prior to or contemporaneously with the request to set any matter for a contested hearing on financial issues. The responding party must file a Financial Affidavit not less than seven (7) days in advance of the hearing.

6. **Emergency Hearings:** Local Rules require at least 14 days' notice of any hearing, and any request to waive that requirement must be stated in writing in the petition or motion, a courtesy copy of which must be provided to the Court;
7. **Interim Fees:** Counsel filing a petition for interim attorney's fees must provide a courtesy copy to the Court, and the responding party will then be ordered to file a written response within 21 days, which must include an itemization of all fees incurred, paid and outstanding by the responding party;
8. **Guardians ad Litem:** The Court will consider guardian ad litem appointments, and any limitations to the scope of the appointment, on a case by case basis;
9. Due to the schedule changes noted above, and ongoing review of new rules applicable to family law cases, there will be no specific family law protocol effective March 4, 2024, until further notice;
10. **Spanish Interpreter Call:** Due to the need for Spanish language interpreters in family law cases, and to make efficient use of the interpreters' time between courtrooms, family law cases will have a Spanish language interpreter call. This call will be held as follows:
  - a. March 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom F;
  - b. April 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom C;
  - c. May 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom F;
11. The following case types may be placed on this Spanish interpreter call:
  - a. Dissolution of Marriage;
  - b. Allocation of Parental Responsibilities;
  - c. Guardianships; and
  - d. Child Support cases.
12. Each Spanish interpreter call will be scheduled as follows:
  - a. 9:00 a.m.: status hearings, case management conferences, pre-trial conferences, and uncontested hearings in which the parties have reached a full agreement;
  - b. 10:00 a.m.: contested hearings.
13. Please contact the Judge currently assigned to the case to determine whether the matter may be assigned to the Spanish interpreter call.

2-13-24  
Date

  
Judge Anna M. Benjamin