

AVAILABLE IN-PERSON JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT MEDIATION (JSM) SLOTS

(Updated as of 8/29/2025 1:47 PM)

Effective September 1, 2025, these are the steps to obtain and participate in an in-person Judicial Settlement Mediation (JSM):

- Referral to Judicial Settlement Mediation(JSM): JSM may only be set with the approval of a Judicial Officer or the Family Court Settlement Officer (Sharon L. Roper).
- To Schedule JSM: Counsel can contact the office of the Family Court Settlement Officer by email at JSM@scscourt.org after reviewing the court website for available JSM sessions and mutually agreeing on an available date. If counsel receives the Bench Referral in court, counsel can that day coordinate and schedule the JSM at the Office of the Court Settlement Officer on the 5th floor of the Family Justice Center Courthouse.
- See JSM Flyer at end of posting for more information as to the JSM pilot program

| | Judge Delgado | Judge Heaberlin |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday, 9/2/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Tuesday, 9/16/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Tuesday, 9/30/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Friday, 10/3/2025 | | 1:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, 10/14/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Tuesday, 10/28/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Tuesday, 11/18/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |
| Friday, 11/21/2025 | | 1:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, 12/2/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | |

Friday, 12/12/2025

1:30 p.m.

JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT MEDIATION PILOT

Santa Clara County Superior Court, Family Division

Eligibility for Judicial Settlement Mediation:

1. The case must be ready to meaningfully discuss settlement of outstanding issues. The case should be far enough along that “outstanding discovery” cannot be used as an excuse to avoid serious settlement discussions.
2. Both parties should be represented by counsel.
3. Both parties must have exchanged Preliminary Declarations of Disclosure.
4. All cases involving property division, support, or other financial issues must have been to an SOC at least once or have completed a private mediation attempt.
5. Custody and visitation cases may be set after completion of a Judicial Custody Conference (JCC), Post Mediation Hearing (PMH), or Custody Settlement Conference (CSC).
6. Judicial Settlement Mediation may be set in addition to or in lieu of a Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) when a trial is set in an All Purpose Judge (APJ) department, or when it has been referred to the Civil Division for a Long Cause Trial with the approval of the APJ, the Supervising Judge or the judge in the Civil Trial Setting Department.
7. Parties and counsel must appear in person at the settlement conference. There will be no appearances by phone or videoconference. Judicial Settlement Mediation will not be conducted with a party on the telephone.

Referral to Judicial Settlement Mediation:

Judicial Settlement Mediation may only be set with the approval of a Judicial Officer or the Family Court Settlement Officer (Sharon L. Roper).

To Schedule Judicial Settlement Mediation:

Counsel can contact the office of the Family Court Settlement Officer by email at JSM@scscourt.org after reviewing the court website for available JSM sessions and mutually agreeing on an available date. If counsel receives the Bench Referral in court, counsel can that day coordinate and schedule the Judicial Settlement Mediation at the Office of the Court Settlement Officer on the 5th floor of the Family Justice Center Courthouse.

Prior to Judicial: Settlement Mediation:

At least seven (7) days prior to the JSM session, counsel shall prepare, serve, and file a brief Statement of Issues not to exceed five (5) pages. Additional attachments may be submitted. Attachments should be relevant only to settlement, such as orders at issue, expert reports, and support calculations. Counsel shall email a copy of the Statement of Issues to the assigned settlement judge at least 5 days prior to the session. Counsel should be aware of the trial policies for their trial department.

In Addition:

1. Counsel and the parties will be present at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled conferences and have no hearings in other departments during the conference. Expert witnesses may attend. If there are competing experts, they should attend. Ideally, they will have reviewed one another's reports and have met and conferred.
2. Counsel and the parties will exchange settlement offers along with their exchange of Statements of Issues (5) days prior to the conference.
3. Judicial Settlement Mediation will occur in the Office of the Family Court Settlement Officer on the 5th Floor of the Family Justice Center Courthouse, 201 N. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113.