



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
JOHN ADAMS COURTHOUSE
BOSTON, MA 02108

Paula M. Carey
CHIEF JUSTICE

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NOTICE:

Modifications to Probate and Family Court Scheduling Practices and Procedures, Barnstable, Bristol, and Middlesex Divisions of the Probate and Family Court:

At the request of certain First Justices, the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court, Paula M. Carey has determined that the following Divisions of the Probate and Family Court will be permitted to modify their motion practice as set forth in the Scheduling Practices and Procedures promulgated and effective April 15, 2010.

1. Bristol Division of the Probate and Family Court (New Bedford)—Scheduled motions in New Bedford shall be limited to 55 per motion session. Attorneys and parties shall be permitted to mail in or hand deliver their motion and chose their own dates, on a motion day of the assigned case Judge, rather than the Court choosing a motion date. If the date fills, the parties or counsel will be notified and they will be required to choose another date for their hearing. This exemption was granted to ensure that no fire code is violated in New Bedford.
2. Barnstable Division of the Probate and Family Court—Motions may be scheduled on Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings beginning May 3, 2010. Motions may be scheduled on Wednesdays only if the parties have a scheduled pre-trial conference that day. There will be no limit to the number of motions scheduled on a particular day, except in the event of vacation or other anomaly circumstance. Attorneys and parties may send their motions in to the Court, with proper notice, without having to call the Court in advance.
3. Middlesex Division of the Probate and Family Court --- Scheduled motions in the Middlesex Division shall be limited to 55 per motion session. Attorneys and parties shall be permitted to mail in or hand deliver their motion and chose their own dates, on a motion day of the assigned case Judge, rather than the Court choosing a motion date. If the date fills, the parties or counsel will be notified and they will be required to choose another date for their hearing. This exemption was granted in light of the significant shortage of Probation Officers in Middlesex County, the fact that four days a week two motion sessions are running, and at times three court locations operate on one day.