

# Schedule a court hearing

## Author

Northwest Justice Project

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Use this if you are filing a motion in your family law case and you need to schedule a hearing for the judge to consider it. (Form and instructions)

Form attached:

**Notice of Hearing (family law)** (FL All Family 185)

When you file a **motion** asking the judge to decide something in your case, you must also schedule a hearing. Courts have different 'dockets' or 'calendars' each week where they hear different types of cases.

**A motion** is any request you make to the judge while your case is in progress, before or after a trial. [Get family forms](#) to find the right motion forms for your situation.

For most motions, you must put all your requests and evidence in writing, schedule a hearing, file your papers with the court clerk, and serve the other party. You can file written statements (called declarations) from yourself and other people supporting your case.

The other party can respond in writing.

**This is different from a trial** where witnesses must testify in person. The judge holds a trial to make a final decision on all issues in your case.

## Step-by-step

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1. **Contact the clerk for the Superior Court where your case is filed.** Tell the clerk what type of motion you're filing and ask when you can schedule a hearing on that motion. Leave yourself enough time to serve the other party. Usually, you must serve the other party at least **14 days** before the hearing. Ask the clerk if there's a different deadline for your type of motion.

Ask the clerk if they have a special form you must use to schedule a hearing. (Some courts call it a "Note for Motion Docket," a "Notice of Issue," or a "Note for Hearing.") If not, you can use this form.

2. **Fill out the form.**

**Caption.** Put the Petitioner and Respondent names in the blanks at the top left. Put the county and your case number in the blanks at the top right.

**Form section 1.** Put the hearing date and time you got from the clerk. Put the courthouse address, courtroom number, and name of the docket or judge.

**Form section 2. Purpose of the hearing.** Put the name of the motion you're filing. (Example: Motion for Temporary Family Law Order.)

**This hearing was requested by:** Check if you are the petitioner or respondent.

**Person asking for this hearing signs here:** Sign and print your name and address. Put the date. Read the box about your address.

3. **Make copies.** You need one copy of each completed form for yourself, one for the judge, and one for each other party to your case.

Organize the copies in sets, so there's one set for each person who needs a copy. You don't have to give the other party a copy of the Proof of Mailing or Hand Delivery. Put each set of papers into an envelope addressed to each party, with your return address. You'll use these sets for service.

If a child support prosecutor (often called "the state") is involved in your case, you'll need to serve them with a copy of everything you file in court. Make an extra copy to serve on them.

4. **File the originals** with the Superior Court Clerk. Give the clerk the originals of all your forms for filing **except** you should ask the clerk what to do with the originals of any proposed orders. Follow the clerk's instructions.

Ask the clerk to stamp your copies to show the date you filed the originals. Take the stamped copies back from the clerk. The clerk keeps the original.

Deliver working copies to the judge, if required in your county.

5. **Serve the other party (or parties)** with copies of everything you filed, and any proposed orders. Most counties require service **at least 14 days before a hearing**. Ask the clerk if your county's deadline is different.

Follow the rules for service after a case starts. You can serve most motion papers yourself, but it's better to have someone else do it. Ask an adult friend or relative to do it for you. If the other party has a lawyer, have the papers served on the lawyer.

6. **Have the server fill out the Proof of Mailing or Hand Delivery**. Make 2 copies. File the original with the Superior Court Clerk. Bring your copies to the hearing.

7. **Go to your hearing.**

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Superior Court of Washington, County of \_\_\_\_\_

In re:

Petitioner/s (person/s who started this case):

\_\_\_\_\_

And Respondent/s (other party/parties):

\_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Notice of Hearing  
(NTHG)

Clerk's action required: 1

**Notice of Hearing**

To the Court Clerk and all parties:

1. A court hearing has been scheduled:



for: \_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_  a.m.  p.m.  
*date* *time*

at: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
*court's address* *room or department*

\_\_\_\_\_ *docket / calendar or judge / commissioner's name*

2. The purpose of this hearing is (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Warning!** If you do not go to the hearing, the court may sign orders without hearing your side.

This hearing was requested by:  Petitioner or lawyer  Respondent or lawyer



Person asking for this hearing signs here

Print name (if lawyer, also list WSBA #)

Date

I agree to accept legal papers for this case at:

\_\_\_\_\_ *address*

\_\_\_\_\_ *city* \_\_\_\_\_ *state* \_\_\_\_\_ *zip*

(Optional) email: \_\_\_\_\_

This does **not** have to be your home address. If this address changes before the case ends, you **must** notify all parties and the court clerk in writing. You may use the *Notice of Address Change* form (FL All Family 120). A party must also update their *Confidential Information* form (FL All Family 001) if this case involves parentage or child support.