

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

231 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106 Phone (860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

## **CT Judicial Branch Expands Remote Capabilities to Include More Family Cases**

Effective immediately, parties who have an agreement may have their family court cases resolved without having to come to court.

"This is a significant development considering that about 90 percent of our cases are resolved by agreement," the Hon. Michael A. Albis, chief administrative judge of family matters, said. "We are looking forward to this expansion of cases that we can dispose of remotely, and most important, we are glad that a greater number of litigants will have the opportunity to resolve their cases without having to come to court."

An executive order by Gov. Ned Lamont made the expansion possible, and, Judge Albis added, "We are pleased that the Governor's Office paved the way for this development."

"My No. 1 priority throughout this pandemic has been the health and safety of the public, the bar, Judicial Branch employees and judges," Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III said. "Maximizing our remote capabilities is an essential tool, as it allows us to expand the cases we handle without expanding our footprint at the courthouses, until it is safe to do so."

Judge Carroll added: "I am especially grateful for the leadership of Deputy Chief Court Administrator Elizabeth A. Bozzuto and Judge Albis. I also anticipate that, with the very able assistance of our other Chief Administrative Judges, we will be rolling out ways to handle more criminal, civil and juvenile cases as well."

Under the new procedures for family cases, parties with full written agreements in family court matters may request approval of their agreements without having to come to the courthouse for a hearing. The procedure is available to request the entry of final judgment in any action for custody, visitation between parents, dissolution of marriage, or legal separation, or a final order on any motion in such a case, as long as the parties are in complete agreement and file all necessary documents.

Explanations and requirements of the procedures and all necessary documents are posted on the Judicial Branch <u>website</u>.