

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

CHAPTER 5. FAMILY LAW RULES

**RULE 5.5 MEDIATION AND CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING (CCRC)**

**5.5.4 Attendance at FCS Appointments**

A. Remote Participation: The request for remote participation shall be made a minimum of three (3) calendar days in advance of the FCS appointment. A party may participate in their Family Court Services appointment via telephone when any one of the following occurs:

1. A party may participate in their FCS appointment via Zoom when any one of the following occurs:

a. Traveling to the FCS facility will cause an extreme hardship, including but not limited to:

1) **Remote Participation for a PARENT:** The parent resides beyond a 150-mile radius from the B.F. Sisk Fresno Superior Court building;

2) **Remote Participation for a CHILD:** The child resides primarily outside the State of California.

b. Remote participation is directly ordered by the Court; or

c. When there is good cause, at the discretion of FCS.

2. If approved to participate in the FCS appointment remotely, the party is expected to comply with the following rules regarding Zoom participation:

a. Participants must have access to a stable and secure internet connection.

b. Participants must be able to utilize the Zoom application with devices that will allow them both **audio AND video** capabilities.

c. Participants must be in a quiet, private, uninterrupted, distraction-free location and not a public environment, and cannot be distracted by driving, working, childcare or other tasks during the FCS appointment.

d. Participants may NOT –

1) Record the session in any way.

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2) Allow anyone to be in the room with you.

e. Children – will not be allowed to participate in the interviews with the adults and **cannot** be in the room with the parent, listening in, or able to hear the conversation under any circumstances.

1) Parents must ensure that they have supervision by another responsible adult or a family member/sibling aged 12 or older for any child of yours aged 7 and under for a full two (2) hours during the FCS session.

f. Breaking these rules will be considered failure to cooperate with the process and the mediator/CCRC can **terminate** any session in which he or she feels a party is breaking these rules and will report the reason to the Court.

B. Rescheduling FCS Appointments: All Family Court Services appointments are set on a first-come-first serve basis. Any request to reschedule a Family Court Services appointment shall be sent to the Family Court Services Manager at [FresnoFCS@fresno.courts.ca.gov](mailto:FresnoFCS@fresno.courts.ca.gov) for consideration.

C. Cancellation of FCS Appointments: Both parties will need to contact FCS to cancel a mediation or CCRC appointment. Once FCS has received confirmation of the cancellation request from both parties, the appointment with FCS will be cancelled. Note: This will NOT cancel any upcoming court hearings. (Effective September 15, 2022; Rule 5.5.3 (now 5.5.4) renumbered effective January 1, 2006; adopted as Rule 34.3 effective July 1, 1998)