

CHAPTER 12
FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR RULES

RULE 12.1 ADDITIONAL FACILITATOR DUTIES

(A) In addition to the duties designated by the Family Law Facilitator Act, the duties of the family law facilitator may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Meeting with litigants to mediate issues of child support, spousal support, and maintenance of health insurance, subject to §10012 of the Family Code. Actions in which one or both of the parties are unrepresented by counsel shall have priority.

(2) Drafting stipulations to include all issues agreed to by the parties, which may include issues other than those specified in Section 1003 of the Family Code.

(3) If the parties are unable to resolve issues with the assistance of the family law facilitator, prior to or at the hearing, and at the request of the court, the family law facilitator shall review the paperwork, examine documents, prepare support schedules, and advise the judge whether or not the matter is ready to proceed.

(4) Assisting the clerk in maintaining records.

(5) Preparing formal orders consistent with the court's announced order in cases where both parties are unrepresented.

(6) Serving as a special master in proceedings and making findings to the court unless he or she has served as a mediator in that case.

(B) If staff and other resources are available and the duties listed in subdivision (A) have been accomplished, the duties of the family law facilitator may also include the following:

(1) Assisting the court with research and any other responsibilities which will enable the court to be responsive to the litigants' needs.

(2) Developing programs for bar and community outreach through day and evening programs, videotapes, and other innovative means that will assist unrepresented and financially disadvantaged litigants in gaining meaningful access to family court. These programs shall specifically include information concerning underutilized legislation, such as expedited child support orders and preexisting, court-sponsored programs such as appointment of attorneys for children.

(Rule 11.1 renumbered rule 12.1 effective July 1, 2005; adopted effective July 1, 2001.)