

How to Respond to a Contempt Motion

Use these instructions if the other party has filed a *Motion for Contempt Hearing* and you want to respond to that motion.

Talk to a lawyer, if you can

These instructions have been developed by the King County Superior Court Family Law Information Center. They are not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. They provide only legal *information*. It's a good idea to talk to a lawyer before you file any forms.

If you **cannot** afford a lawyer, you can:

- You can obtain a list of low-cost and free legal resources. <https://kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/superior-court/docs/family/facilitator/family-law-resources.ashx?la=en>
- Get help from the Family Law Facilitators office. You can get information about their services at <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/facilitator.aspx>.

Step 1: Fill out these forms

All of these forms can be downloaded at: www.courts.wa.gov/forms/

Form Name	Form Number	Notes	Completed
Declaration of (Name) _____	FL All Family 135	Tell the Court your side of the story	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contempt Hearing Order	FL All Family 167	Fill this out the way you would like the Commissioner to decide	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the motion involves financial issues, you will also fill out these forms

Financial Declaration of (Name) _____	FL All Family 131		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sealed Financial Source Documents Cover Sheet	FL All Family 011	Attach the documents listed below to this cover sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>

For the court to decide on financial issues, you must provide copies of financial documents, including:

- Your W-2s and complete personal tax returns for the past 2 years
- Your most recent pay stubs (at least 6 months)
- Complete partnership/corporate tax returns for the past 2 years if you have a 5% interest or more
- Statements from all of your banks and financial institutions for the past 6 months

Make copies of your paperwork.

- **Original** set to file with Clerk's office
- Copy 1 will go to the Commissioner for the hearing
- Copy 2 is to serve on the other party
- Copy 3 you will keep for your records

Step 2: Take your original forms to the Clerk's Office

When: Noon, 5 court days before the court date

Where: Clerk's Office (Room 2C in Kent and E-609 in Seattle)

Or

E-File your completed forms with the Clerk's Office

How to e-file into an existing case:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/Clerk/docs/misc/eFileIntoExistingCaseGuide.ashx?a=en> also found here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/documents/efiling.aspx>

What: The originals of all papers from Step 1 **except** the Contempt Hearing Order. This is your proposed Order. (see step 4 for what to do with the proposed order)

Step 3: Submission List/Confirm Hearing

Find this form here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/forms.aspx>

Form Name	Completed
Working Paper Submission List	<input type="checkbox"/>

All documents that will be considered **must** be filed in the clerk's office (either e-filed or physically delivered) and served on the other party. Once you have filed the documents you must file a *Working Papers Submission List*. The *Submission List* form can be found at: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/forms.aspx>. The Working Papers Submission List accomplishes two purposes:

1. **It confirms that you want your hearing to move forward**-The *Working Papers Submission List* is due by the reply deadline for the moving party (noon 3 court days prior) and the response deadline for the responding party (noon 5 court days prior). If you fail to file your submission list by the deadlines listed above, your hearing will not take place. It is suggested that the submission list be filed electronically to avoid processing delays.
2. **It lets the Commissioner know what to read to prepare for the hearing.** The submission list shall list all documents that the parties want the court to consider. It must list your motion. If the submission list does not list required documents, such as the motions, your hearing may not go forward.

If you have filed multiple motions for one case, and have reserved a spot for each motion, you may file one submission list for all properly reserved motions.



Important! If you do not turn in a Submission List your hearing will be stricken.

Step 4: Submit Proposed Orders to Family Law Department

You must submit your proposed orders online through the **Clerk's Office eFiling System** via the "Proposed Orders (Family Law)" link.

If you are the person asking for the motion, submit your proposed order at least 14 calendar days prior to the hearing. If you are the person responding to the motion, the proposed order is due 5 court days prior to the hearing.

Step 5: Have the other party served

Serve the other party with a copy of all forms **except** the *Proof of Personal Service* or *Proof of Mailing* or *Hand Delivery* forms.

How to serve

Provided that no order restrains you from having contact with the other party, you may deliver or mail them yourself at least **5 court days by 12 noon** before the hearing (**add 3 more days for mailing**). If the other party has an attorney, deliver or mail the forms to the attorney instead.

After you have delivered or mailed the forms to the other party or attorney, fill out the *Proof of Mailing or Hand Delivery* form. File the original with the Clerk's Office, keep a copy for your records.

If you had someone else deliver the papers to the other party or attorney, then the server would fill out the *Proof of Personal Service* form. If someone else mails them for you then the server would fill out the *Proof of Mailing or Hand Delivery*.

Step 6: Virtual hearing

All family law motions are being all heard virtually via Zoom. Two days before your hearing:

- Go to <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/virtual-hearings.aspx>
- Click on the green button that says "Virtual Hearing Links- 1:00 p.m. Calendar"
- Find the name of your case. The zoom link you will use to appear for your hearing will be to the right of your case number.

If you cannot access Zoom for your hearing you may also use the phone number provided to appear by phone. If you cannot go online to get the hearing information, at least two days before your hearing, call and leave a message at:

- 206-477-1523 for motions noted in Kent, or
- 206-477-2750 for motions noted in Seattle

Court staff will contact you back to let you know how to appear.

For more guidance on Video Hearings, please visit: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/get-help/Video.aspx>

Important tips for your Zoom hearing:

- 1. If you are on time for your hearing and you are not let into the meeting within 15 minutes** after your scheduled hearing time, please email
 - a. FamilyLawStaffSeattle@KingCounty.gov for Seattle cases or,
 - b. FamilyLawStaffMRJC@KingCounty.gov for Kent cases.

Do not leave the waiting room. If you cannot email the court, call 206-263-0635 for assistance.

- 2. Once in the meeting please:**

- a. Mute yourself and turn off your camera until you are called on.
- b. Rename yourself with your last name, first name (example: "Doe, Jane").
- c. If you get disconnected on accident you can click the link again or call the associated phone number and you will be let back into the meeting.

- 3. The coordinator will perform a check-in.** Please remain muted and do not speak until your name or case number is called.

- 4. After check-in, wait and remain muted with your camera off until the court is ready for your hearing.** Your hearing may start at any time between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. When called,

identify yourself each time you speak and conduct yourself as you would if you were in a physical courtroom, meaning there are other people present for their hearings too.

5. After your hearing is over you are welcome to leave the meeting.